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A  
HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF  
STURBRIDGE AND SOUTHBRIDGE.

By GEORGE DAVIS.

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WEST BROOKFIELD, MASS.  
POWER PRESS OF O. S. COOKE AND CO.  
1856.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE suggestions of a learned and highly esteemed friend, first prompted the writer to attempt a brief history of the early and subsequent settlers of Sturbridge. He was led to believe, upon reflection, that such a work would be a memorial of deserved respect and gratitude to our ancestors, and perhaps be, in some degree, useful. Gratitude, for what they had endured and accomplished, not only for themselves, but for posterity; and useful, in whatever their example is worthy of imitation.

The relation, which binds us to a venerated ancestry, must be cherished, if after generations would derive practical instruction from the influence of their example. The history of a town has many features bearing a strong resemblance to that of the nation to which it belongs. It is especially so in those great transactions which are deeply felt in every part. Our struggle for independence (which ought to be kept in perpetual remembrance) united the combined efforts of every section of the confederacy, and was equally beneficial to every part in its momentous results. The inhabitants of a town may feel a laudable pride in the reflection, that their fathers bore a distinguished part in the accomplishment of so great a common blessing.

We have, with considerable research, endeavored to ascertain the names of all, who, from this town, bore arms in the French and Revolutionary wars. With many of those venerated men, the writer was personally acquainted, and was enabled, by aiding them, in procuring pensions, to become more particularly acquainted with their revolutionary services. In-

formation, in relation to others, he has obtained from various reliable sources. From a venerated friend, who has measured almost a century, he has been favored with very many important facts. To other aged men, he feels himself indebted, for similar facts. He has stated the period of each man's services as definitely as he could ascertain the extent of such services; and has briefly sketched the characters of a considerable number, and certain events and transactions, in connection with their services. Of others, he would have spoken more particularly, had he possessed the desired information. Most of those men were in the common walks of life, industriously toiling with their hands for their own support, and that of others. He has sketched the characters of many others, especially those who passed through the revolutionary scene, but were not personally engaged in the conflict. He has remarked at some length on the agricultural interest, and of its changes and improvements which have taken place. He has spoken of the provision that has been made for the instruction of the rising generation in the primary school.

The greatest portion of what is now Southbridge, having been identified with Sturbridge, and being as before, one corporation nearly a century, the writer has connected them together in this sketch. It is gratifying to those of us especially, who are advanced in life, to consider Southbridge still, as a member of the original family. The developments of that enterprising spirit which has marked her course, is viewed with laudable pride. Our attempt would manifestly be but a partial undertaking without the connection of Southbridge.

The great change which has taken place, in reference to the manufacturing interest, within the last half century, is more strikingly manifested in Southbridge than in Sturbridge. He has spoken of the origin of this interest, and its progress, somewhat in detail.

He has sketched the early movements of the temperance reformation, and also for spreading the Gospel.

Making his sketch a little more general, he has given his views of the administration of the general Government, from its origin to the present time.

He would observe, that it has not been his intention to supersede, or render less useful, the interesting and valuable sketch of Sturbridge, by the Rev. Dr. Clark, who has always shared so largely in the esteem and respect of the people of Sturbridge. That work includes an ecclesiastical history of Sturbridge, which we have not embraced in ours. Our controlling motive, in attempting the undertaking, was to preserve a record of our men who were in the French and revolution-

ary wars, and also of the commencement and developments of industry, which have rendered the Quinaboag an extended theatre of laudable enterprise.

We have revived the names of many of the first and subsequent settlers, the ancestors of many families, now residing among us. We have endeavored to ascertain, who commenced the settlements of various portions of the two towns, and have attempted a brief description of the villages, and certain other striking localities. We have sketched some of the customs, not now observed. We have taken very considerable pains that the work should be substantially correct in regard to facts, but the writer cannot flatter himself that it is entirely so. He would say, in conclusion, that he has endeavored so to express himself, as to be understood by the reader.



## HISTORICAL SKETCH.

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IN or about the year 1727, a few individuals from Medfield and the vicinity, visited the tract of land which was incorporated into a town, by the name of Sturbridge, having previously been called Newmedfield. It then included a great share of the territory, which now composes the town of Southbridge. It is presumable, that they did not come with any cheering hopes of making a settlement, as the impression abroad was, that this section of country possessed few attractions for other settlers, besides its native occupants. The highest estimate put upon it, was £1000. We are ready to believe, the prior examinations had not been sufficiently thorough, for the deserved credit of the territory.

This unfavorable impression, no doubt, prompted the Medfield visitors to be particular in their observations. They witnessed a variety of soil, adapted to a variety of tastes and purposes; an ample supply of water in ponds, brooks and rivulets, conveniently dispersed over the surface, and an abundance of material for fuel, and other necessary purposes. They, no doubt, thought the Quineboag would be useful for saw-mills and grist-mills. It is not at all probable they even imagined its future importance. It is evident that the result of their researches was in favor of the contemplated enterprise. The work before them pre-

sented nothing flattering to indolence, or inactivity. Surrounded by an unbroken forest, they saw that it demanded strong muscles and unflinching resolution. Many a hard days work must be sustained, before any thing effectual could be accomplished for subsistence. We may imagine what was their daily fare, and their comforts for repose at night. We may suppose that their privations and hardships fitted them the better to sustain what was before them; the better not only to sustain conflicts with unsubdued nature, but prepared them and their descendants in after days, to maintain more successfully their rights. Illy would they have been prepared to meet such conflicts, had they been subjected to the influence of modern training and modern luxuries. They persevered. Their works around them manifested progress. Habitations more comfortable began to appear, and the soil began to return in necessities, a full equivalent for the labor bestowed.

This little band of hardy adventurers, not only exhibited progress in the improved aspect of the soil, but in the augmentation of their numbers. In seven years, they numbered fifty families. The territory, which was incorporated into a town, June 24, 1738, contained about 28,929 acres. The first warrant for a town meeting, was issued on the 13th day of Feb. 1739. For a more particular narrative up to that period, the reader is referred to the sketch of Dr. Clark. These settlers were, in an important sense, a new colony. The work of laying the foundation for its growth and prosperity devolved on them. Like the pilgrim fathers, they came imbued with elevated moral, religious, and political principles, which must be carried out in practice. The preparatory work required not that extent of labor and wisdom, which the structure of our national government demanded, but in some degree, both were requisite. A system of municipal regulations must be established, embracing the most essential provisions for religious worship, and the instruction of the rising generation. Possess-

ing a great share of sound practical common sense, and elevated sentiments, the first settlers were found equal to the task. Provision by statute, was made as early as 1692, for the organization of towns. Towns, at that period, were required to be constantly provided with a minister of the gospel. They were required also to provide for the instruction of children and youth, and for the relief of the needy. The act of 1789, providing for the instruction of youth, in conformity to the constitution, is substantially the same as the act of 1692. It is clearly seen, that our ancestors were fully aware of what should be the basis for future prosperity, and laid out their work accordingly. Although themselves mostly self-taught, they foresaw the salutary and controlling power of the school house and the church. Who can deny the correctness of their judgment, or that results have confirmed the soundness of their views.

The records of the town show a systematic and discreet management of its municipal and religious concerns at that period. These interests then, and for many years afterward, were conducted by the town, and not by separate organizations. In their corporate transactions, it is evident, that matters of moment were carefully investigated, and clearly understood, before final action. If an instrument for a constitution of the Commonwealth were submitted to their action, every article, in all its bearings, must be scrutinized, before it received their assent, or dissent. In a small degree dependent on the press, either to lead, or mislead, as at the present day, they certainly possessed resources to arrive at correct conclusions in their important interests. Party considerations had not then an existence. The birth of such an influence bears date at a much later period. The paramount inquiry *then* was, "what will promote the general good?" Influenced by such a principle, fortunate results could hardly fail of being secured. This principle marked their course for a long period. Hospitality and kindness were then practical virtues, cheering many a

social hour, and administering comfort, in seasons of adversity. There is no doubt of the prevalence of landable emulation. Without it, the stern work, in which they were engaged, would have lingered on their hands. Neighbor stimulated neighbor to accomplish this object of a private nature, and that of public utility. Every succeeding year presented new developments of gratifying changes. From imperfections they were not exempt, but it is certain they possessed sterling virtues, in an eminent degree. Whatever improvements we may have made in other particulars, in this we are compelled to believe there has been none. The truth cannot be suppressed, that that high moral standard, which characterized our ancestors, has not been sustained. A remark is said to have been made by an individual, "that he had resided seven years in a certain country, and during that time, he had not heard a profane oath, or seen a person disguised with liquor." "That country was New England." Whether such a remark was made or not, we have no hesitancy in believing there was a period, when it was substantially true, in its application to the people of New-England.

The name of Moses Marcy is connected with the early settlement of the town, and deserves a record of honorable remembrance. He was born in the year 1703. The town records, and the testimony of living witnesses, show that he exerted, for many years, a controlling influence in the religious and municipal interests of the town, and was, beyond a doubt, without any disparagement to others, the leading man in the town. In establishing a system of town regulations which was to be the basis of future proceedings, he was the most efficient agent. All the duties devolving upon a magistrate, were discharged by him, for many years. He has left a copious record of his ratification of matrimonial contracts, probably the most pleasant department of his official duties. He not only possessed high qualifications for civil duties, but for those of a military character. The lat-



ter were held in higher estimation in his day than they are at the present. He held the rank of Captain in town, and was promoted to that of Colonel. There is but little doubt, he was in active service in the French war, so called. At the time the colonists declared themselves independent, he had had the experience of seventy years, and was thoroughly versed in all the treatment of the mother country towards them. He was the last man who would tamely submit to oppression, or unjust exactions in any form. The struggle had progressed about two years before his death. He did not forget his fellow soldiers, or his country in his last hours. When very feeble, and near the close of life, he requested that a body of troops should be paraded before his house, that he might see them once more. The request was readily granted. The interview was solemn and affecting, and was remembered by those brave men, whenever duty to their country demanded their services.

The homestead where he was first settled in the village, (now in Southbridge,) has descended to the fourth generation, in the name of Jedediah Marcy, a cherished spot of remembrance by his descendants. Jedediah Marcy, the son, removed to Dudley, where he died, a man highly respected. The grandson, Capt. Jedediah Marcy, died in 1811, at the age of 54, on the old patrimony. He was the father of the present owner, the Hon. Jedediah Marcy. He was also the father of the Hon. William L. Marcy, now Secretary of State, who has long been considered one of the most eminent of our public men. He has held the highest offices in the gift of his adopted state, and has been a prominent candidate for the Presidency. Intellectual vigor is not unfrequently developed through many generations.

Gen. Timothy Newell married a daughter of Col. Marcy. Col. Marcy was a man of great energy of character, and uncommon intellectual power. He possessed the essential qualifications to fill any public station. His deportment was dignified and commanding. He died in the year 1777,

at the age of 72. A monument, in the old burying ground, in Sturbridge, designates the spot where he was buried. The writer would add, that he is now seated in a chair of which Col. Marcy was the original proprietor. It is on that account a highly valued relic.

At the first Town-Meeting, after the incorporation of the town, Col. Marcy was chosen Moderator, Daniel Fisk, Town-Clerk, and Daniel Fisk, Moses Marcy and Henry Fisk, Selectmen. At the second Annual Town-Meeting, 1739, Isaac Newell was chosen Town-Clerk. Moses Marcy, Isaac Newell, Henry Fisk, Joseph Cheny and Daniel Fisk, Selectmen, and Joseph Smith, Constable.

We find, this year, among the town officers, the names of Moses Allen, David Shumway, David Morse, George Watkins, Ebenezer Stearns, Edward Foster, John Streeter, Joseph Baker and Aaron Martin. In the next year, we find the additional names of Rowland Taylor, Hezekiah Ward, James Dennison, Joseph Allen, Ezekiel Upham, Caleb Harding, Joseph Morse, Joseph Moffet, among the town officers. Descendants of most of those men, whom we have named, are numerous among us. The greatest portion of the present permanent population, are descendants of the early settlers.

There is still remaining a number of families by the name of Smith, families of respectability. We have long been acquainted with Mr. Benjamin Smith, an octogenarian, now living, and possessing to an uncommon degree, the exercise of his physical and mental faculties. He is a grandson of the first individual who wintered in Sturbridge. It is not strange he should feel a laudable pride in such an ancestor. Such men might not have been uncommon at that early period, but are rare, at the present. We may rationally suppose that this hardy pioneer was not dormant during one of those long severe winters, when the ground was covered with snow about six months in the year. The spring no doubt exhibited around him very striking mani-

festations of his physical energies. There is no doubt an opening was made in the forest sufficiently spacious for the uninterrupted influence of the sun. Iron constitutions, and indomitable spirits, were the product of those times. The spot where that winter was passed, is supposed to be near the residence of the late Jabez Harding, Esq. It deserves a monumental remembrance.

The name of Lemuel Sanders is kept in remembrance. His residence was in the northwesterly part of the town, afterwards the residence of the late Jonathan P. Curtis, till his death. Mr. Sanders was particularly noted for his keen calculations in money concerns. His property, amounting to about \$50,000, a few years before his death, fully sustains this trait of character. It was an uncommon estate at that period, to be acquired by a common farmer, with no extraordinary means. Mr. Joshua Mason was in his employ many years, then a young man, where he undoubtedly availed himself of lessons, which were successfully put in practice. Had the pupil died, at the age of the master, it is probable their estates might have been very nearly equal. We do not understand that Mr. Sanders was not upright in his dealings, or an unwilling supporter of the public interests. When a passion for gain becomes predominant, it lessens in public estimation, a reputation in other respects unexceptionable. This remark may be applicable to Mr. Sanders. He was in active life, during the revolution, but did not personally bear arms. He left a handsome legacy for the town, subject to the support of two individuals of feeble capacities, if needy. Mr. Sanders died in the year 1800, in the 53d year of his age. His widow married Col. Watson of Princeton, who resided in town several years.

Mr. Curtis, to whom allusion has been made, deserves further notice. He died in 1849, aged 68. The writer became acquainted with Mr. Curtis at Leicester Academy, and can bear testimony to his many excellent qualities, as a man and a christian. An uninterrupted friendship and in-

timacy existed between us till his much lamented death. Mr. Curtis represented the town one or two years in the General Court, and enjoyed the perfect confidence of the town, in the frequent trusts he discharged as a town-officer.

## FISK HILL.

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THIS is one of the most elevated and beautiful swells of land in Sturbridge, possessing fertility, and commanding an extensive and delightful view, in every direction. Here you have a full view of Fiskdale, and the centre village, appearing to very good advantage; at the North as far as the vision can extend, you catch a view of the azure Monadnock, hardly distinguishable from the surrounding atmosphere; very much nearer, the Wachuset appears head and shoulders above her neighbors; nearer still, Leicester presents a beautiful appearance. At the East, you have a view of the village of Charlton, on a graceful swell of land, presenting a stately, and no less beautiful appearance. Thence south-erly, the eye sweeps over an expansion of varied and lofty scenery, exhibiting spires, churches, villages, and scattered residences, intermixed with the beauties of nature. Take it all and in all, the eye may here dwell with a high degree of pleasure, on a rare assemblage of natural and artificial attractions. Transporting ourselves back to that period when our ancestors first commenced a settlement here, we may, in imagination, catch a view of the almost unbroken forest, which was spread out around them. Contrasting that scene, with the present, the change has lessened the sublimity of the prospect, but not its beauties.

This selection by the original settlers, viz.—Henry and Daniel Fisk, is a manifestation of good taste and sound judgment. The breezes here are somewhat searching, but not too much so for health and a vigorous constitution. First settled by individuals whose name it bears, it continued in their possession and that of their descendants, more than a century. Dea. Henry Fisk, a son of one of the original proprietors, who resided on the eastern slope, was an example of industry and activity. Whether on the farm, in public, or private transactions, in family devotions, or in the sanctuary, Dea. Fisk was a model, worthy of imitation. Favored with a firm physical constitution, good practical common sense, and an energetic mind, few men have accomplished so much, and so well, in his sphere of usefulness. At an advanced age, he and the companion of his youth closed together their exemplary lives, the husband Dec. 10, and wife Dec. 11, 1815. The former at the age of 70, and the latter at the age of 69. They sleep together in the same grave.

David Fisk Esq. a brother, who settled on the highest point of the elevation, was a thrifty farmer, and an amiable and upright man. As a neighbor, a townsman, a citizen, and a christian, he was kind, liberal and exemplary. His numerous family were trained up in habits of industry, and were favored with common school instruction requisite for the transaction of business. Three of his sons received a collegiate education, and became professional men.

As much may be said of another brother, who resided more northerly, on the elevation. Capt. Simeon Fisk possessed a strong intellect, and a memory, in which were treasured very many important facts and events of the stirring times in which he lived. The causes of the revolution, and subsequent transactions, were all fresh in his memory. He was a prominent and efficient man in civil and religious concerns. He left an extensive diary, which is a valuable reference work. His conversation was always edifying, and

calculated to make a salutary impression. Not only in his conversation, but in the transactions of life was clearly manifested his implicit dependence on Divine guidance in regard to the path of duty. To this may be traced no doubt, in no small degree that cheerfulness and serenity which uniformly marked his deportment. Capt. Fisk's personal appearance was manly and commanding. He died at an advanced age. We have omitted to mention that Capt. Fisk was in active service about six months, and received a wound in a battle, which affected him through life.

Mr. Daniel Fisk, another brother, resided many years on this hill. He was an honest and exemplary man, more retiring in his habits than his relatives. He removed in advance life, into the State of New York. He had a numerous and respectable family.

Nathan Fisk resided about a quarter of a mile northeasterly of Daniel. We have spoken of him in another place.

On the Southern declivity of this elevation, was situated the neat and comfortable Baptist Church. Here those families, with others of that denomination in various parts of the town, worshiped more than half of a century. The Rev. Zenas L. Leonard was the watchman on this watch-tower. Mr. Leonard was "in season and out of season" in his devotion to the spiritual interests of his charge. He felt also a deep interest in their temporal welfare. He patronized industry in all its forms, by his own active example. He was also a patron of education, especially of common school instruction. His presence and exhortations were always cheering to the youth. He was enabled, although his salary was very small, by industry and discreet management, to give one of his sons a public education, and his other children such advantages as prepared them for usefulness. He lived in a highly respectable manner, and left a handsome estate. He represented the town in the Legislature, several different periods, and was a delegate to new

model the constitution, in 1820. His moral, religious and energetic character, exerted a salutary influence.

In this connection, we cheerfully record the name of Dea. John Phillips, another solid pillar of the Baptist Society, now in the ninety fifth year of his age. He possesses in a wonderful degree, the exercise of his physical and mental powers. He labors daily, as usual, upon his farm, and can walk ten or twelve miles in a day, without being much fatigued. He was born on the spot where he has ever since resided. His father, Dea. John Phillips, was the first settler of that locality. He has always been a prominent and an influential member of the community, not only in his own Society, but in the municipal concerns of the town. More than once has he been a representative in the General Court. His memory is a store-house of interesting facts, in relation to scenes and events, which passed under his personal observation during almost a century. He has marked, as a close observer, the wonderful changes which have taken place during this long period. He has uniformly, by his active example, promoted those interests which elevate society, and advance human happiness. May the memory of such men be cherished long after their noble forms have passed away. Dea. Phillips was in the revolutionary war about seven weeks, at Cambridge. Col. Edward Phillips, of the third generation, is the proprietor of the old homestead, in connection with his father.

Dea. Jonathan Lyon, another worthy and venerable member of the Baptist Society, still lives.

We add another remark in regard to Fisk Hill. It probably exceeds every other section of the town in point of strength and productiveness of soil. The farms exhibit a neat appearance, and evidence of skilful cultivation. If the soil, at the commencement of the spring, is so wet as to delay tillage, the autumn almost invariably presents heavy crops.



We also add an interesting fact indicative of the progress of the early settlers of this eminence.

Dea. Henry Fisk, one of the original settlers had eleven children, and Dea. Daniel, another of those settlers, had the cheering number of sixteen. Fourteen lived to adult age, and most of them to advanced life. Such cases were quite common, in early times, but quite rare at the present.

## SHUMWAY HILL.

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Shumway Hill, (so called,) is another eminence which commands an expansive and most delightful view of the surrounding country. The Monadnock and Wachusett are here more fully developed, than on Fisk-Hill, and the rural scene more extensive. In a clear day, the lover of such scenery may spend hours in gazing upon the unnumbered attractions spread out around him. Art, mingling its beauties with nature, heightens the pleasure of the scene. We have often heard the traveller express his gratification in witnessing this view. It is a pleasant compensation for the fatigue of ascending the hill.

In regard to the nature of the soil upon and around this hill, the most of it is of a superior quality, and exhibits the work of industry and good husbandry.

James Johnson, who bore arms in the French War, was one of the pioneers in this part of the town. His own hand performed the principal part of the work of clearing his lands for cultivation. He was a stout athletic resolute man. He could fight the battles of his country, or wage war with the sturdy forest. We have spoken of James Johnson in another place. James Johnson, his father, and the father of Comfort, was the first settler of the estate which was owned afterward, and occupied many years by Comfort. Joseph Baker was an original settler on, or near Shumway Hill.

Ezekiel Upham, Junior commenced a settlement where David McFarlin afterward resided.

Aaron Allen commenced the settlement where Capt. Elisha Allen afterward resided, and Capt. Henry Clark, where Dea. James Chapin lately resided.

Joseph Smith who is noticed in another place, commenced the settlement where the late Jabez Harding Esq. resided. He was the solitary individual who passed a winter, in this then almost unbroken wilderness.

Isaac Child began the settlement where the late Capt. Lemuel Hooker lived. Samuel Child, where Benjamin Smith lives. Benjamin Robbins, where Samuel Farnum lives. Caleb Harding, where the late Ebenezer Cutting lived. Solomon Rood, where Elias Carpenter lately lived. Mr. Knap, where Harvey Plimpton lives. John Haig, where the late Thomas Marsh lived. Ebenezer Dunton, where the late Lient. Silas Dunton lived, and James Gibbs, where the late Jabez Vinton lived.

John Holbrook, the father of John Holbrook Esq. was the first settler of that extensive farm, which has descended to George Holbrook, the present owner, of the fourth generation.

John Tarbell died in 1801, at the advanced age of 95, and his wife, at the age of 82. He was the first settler of the farm now owned by Dea. Jonathan Lyon. The farm was originally very much larger than at present.

Timothy Faulkner was the first settler of the farm now owned by Lemuel Holmes. This farm has also been greatly curtailed since Mr. Faulkner's day.

Samuel Shumway, the grandfather of Abijah and Samuel Shumway, was the original settler of their farm. It embraced much more territory than it does at present. It is now owned by Abijah and Samuel of the third generation.

John Harding was the original settler of the farm now owned by Charles G. Allen, and Joseph Baker, of whom we have spoken, was the first settler of the farm now owned by

H. N. Lumbard, and the late residence of Samuel Shumway. A most delightful western view, of rural scenery, is here spread out to the beholder.

Stephen Gerould commenced the settlement of the farm which was for many years afterward owned and occupied by Joshua Gerould, in the southern part of the town. Joshua was one of the prominent men of the town.

Moses Allen was the first settler of what is now Fiskdale. He built the Grist-Mill which we have noticed in our description of Fiskdale. The mill was afterwards owned by Capt. Jacob Allen whom we have also noticed.

John Morse commenced the settlement of the farm now owned by Lyman Johnson.

Passing to the place where the late Marcns Smith resided, on the southern declivity of Fisk-Hill, David Smith commenced the settlement in that locality.

The northern part was first settled by John Weld, who came from Roxbury. This was one of the first settlements in the town, being a little prior to the year 1730. Mr. Weld's purchase contained about 1200 acres of territory, including a portion of what was called the Oxford Gore, at the price of a pistareen per acre. Mr. Weld, no doubt, was ever afterward satisfied with the price, for the tract ranks with the best in town. Distributing about one half of it among his four sons, as they arrived at suitable ages to settle for themselves, he retained the other half for himself. This we see, was the way, in those days, that the parent made provision for the settlement of his children. His residence was on the spot, where Dexter Nichols now resides. The residence of Dea. Moses Weld, the oldest son, is now in the possession of Francis Weld, of the third generation.

Dea. Moses Weld appears to have been a leading man. It is to be regretted that no monument is to be found, designating the resting place of the original pioneer. Dea. Moses Weld died in the year 1806, aged 84. There is still

a considerable number of the descendants remaining in town.

Passing some miles southerly, we come to the spot where Ezekiel Upham pitched his tent in the wilderness. The extent of the original tract owned by him, we are not able to state. His youngest son, Nathaniel, succeeded to a part or all of the estate of the father. Nathaniel was born in the first house there erected, where he lived and died in the 80th year of his age. Maj. Jacob Upham, of the third generation, has erected handsome and commodious buildings on the spot where the old ones stood. It commands an extensive and beautiful southern and western view. We well remember Mr. Nathaniel Upham. He was a revolutionary patriot. He hired a substitute to bear arms in the field. He was a respectable man, of a cheerful disposition, not suffering himself to be easily disturbed by the common annoyances of life. Ezekiel Upham, the ancestor died 1783, at the age of 83.

Abner Lyon was a neighbor and cotemporary of Nathaniel Upham. He came into town when quite young, and lived with his grandfather John Weld, (of whom we have spoken,) the latter part of his minority. William Chub had made a beginning, and some small improvements on the tract were Mr. Lyon settled and lived till his death, which was in the year 1817, aged 78. Mr. Lyon like Mr. Upham, hired a substitute for active service in the revolutionary struggle. Dr. Ephraim Lyon, his son, was the successor to the real estate. The writer is indebted to Mr. Thomas Lyon, another son, (now upward of eighty, still possessing a very retentive memory,) for many particulars, in relation to the first settlements.

George Watkins, grandfather of the late Gardner Watkins, Esq. was the original settler of the farm lately owned and occupied by Gardner till his death. George Watkins, another grandson, and other descendants, more remote, are still residing in Sturbridge and vicinity. The Watkins'

have been prominent men in the concerns of the town, and have sustained a respectable standing.

Dea. Eleazer Hebard resided for many years in that part of the town. As a man and a christian, he was exemplary. Dignified in appearance, he possessed great firmness and decision of character. He removed to this town, in early life, from the State of Connecticut.

Henry Hooker was the ancestor of the Hookers residing in Sturbridge and Southbridge. He had six sons, viz:—Simeon, Henry, Samuel, Parker, Amos and Silas. The most of them, if not all, lived to have families. The residence of the ancestor was a short distance southerly of Joel Clemmence's dwelling house. Whether he was the first settler of that locality or not, we are not informed. We have not been able to ascertain whether any of the sons, who were adults during the revolution, actually bore arms or not, therefore have not included any of them in the number of the Revolutionary Soldiers.

We could name many of them, as also those of the Watkins family, who have very creditably discharged official trusts in the towns where they belonged. Most of those families, enjoying health, vigor, and activity, have made agriculture their principal pursuit.

We are informed that David Morse, the grandfather of Henry Morse, now living, was the first settler in that place. The estate is now in the possession of Henry, of the third generation. The father, or grandfather of Dea. Jason Morse was probably the first settler on the territory where Dea. Morse resided. It has descended in the same family to the third, or fourth generation. As we have remarked of many others, in point of respectability, the same may be said of the Morse families. The present minister of Brimfield is a son of Dea. Jason Morse.

That portion of the town where Lemuel Sanders, and the Drapers settled, was originally settled by Joseph Marsh and two brothers.

Jabez Harding senior, was the first settler, where his son Maj. Harding resided some years. Joseph Benson senior, was the first settler of the estate to which his son Joseph succeeded, situated northerly of the dwelling of the late Jabez Harding, Esq.

In connection with the name of Jabez Harding, Esq. we record as worthy of remembrance the bequest of his widow, the late Mrs. Harding, to the Congregational Church in Sturbridge. The bequest amounted to several hundred dollars, and was a manifestation of her regard for the Church, of which she was long an exemplary member. We shall notice, in other portions of this work, many more names of the first settlers. It was found inconvenient to present them in an unbroken series.

## WIGHT FAMILY.

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THE WIGHT FAMILY.—We introduce this family, with a narration of some interesting particulars, in relation to the family, and its first settlement in Sturbridge, written by one of the descendants.

“David Wight, one of the first settlers of the west part of the town of Sturbridge, was born at Medfield, Aug. 16th, 1733. At the age of twenty six years, he was married to Miss Catharine Morse of Medfield, who was born March 5th, 1737. The marriage ceremony was solemnized by the Rev. Nathan Buckman, at his house in Medway, June 19th, 1760, and from an ancient record, it appears they commenced house-keeping “on the great public road in Medway,” immediately after their marriage.

During the year 1766, they erected a new house in Medway, and opened it as a house for public entertainment, and continued in that business for several years. In 1773 they sold out the stand in Medway, and purchased 1000 acres of wild land in Sturbridge, for the sum of \$4,500.

The circumstances attending the selection of this tract of land, are worthy of a passing notice. At the present time, it is difficult to determine what first directed their attention to this section of the State, then a dense wilderness—but



certain it is, that Mr. Wight, on his first visit to the wilderness of Sturbridge, viewed two tracts of land upon the banks of the "Quineboag" river, now within the present limits of the town of Holland, known as the "Church Place;" and the other, the spot on which the settlement was afterwards made, and returned to Medway undecided which location would prove the best bargain. To settle this point, it was decided that Mrs. Wight should make a trip to Sturbridge, and view the two tracts, and whichever should appear to her the most desirable, should be the place of their future residence. Accordingly, after due preparation was made, Mrs. Wight set out upon a journey, which at the present time, would be considered perilous, and made her way through the wilderness on horseback to Sturbridge, bringing with her a store of provisions in a pair of old fashioned saddle-bags, sufficient to supply her wants while beyond the limits of "human habitations."

At this early period, there were but few settlements on the route from Medway to Sturbridge, consequently the road over a good part of the way, was but a mere cart track, and in fact a portion of it was but a single path, traced by a line of marked trees. There was a settlement at Oxford, and at Charlton, and a number of families had settled in the central and easterly part of the town of Sturbridge.

Mrs. Wight visited the premises in Holland and in Sturbridge, and decided at once to settle upon the latter. On her return to Medway, the contract was immediately closed with Mr. Brattle, of Cambridge, for the sum above stated, and on Tuesday the 10th day of May, 1774, they started with their goods and family for their new home in Sturbridge. From the record\* above referred to, it appears the teams went to Uxbridge the first day, the next to Oxford plains, and arrived the third day late in the evening, at the

\* A sketch written by David Wight, Jr. of the scenes attending the first settlement of the family in this town.

place of their destination. An accident occurred to one of the teams in passing from Charlton to Sturbridge, which placed in jeopardy the life of one of the children. The youngest son, Alpheus, then about three years old, was placed upon the top of the load of goods that was to be driven by his father. By some means, in passing through the "Charlton Woods," the load was upset, and the child was found surrounded with chests and barrels which fell from the cart down a steep place. He was not hurt, and the goods were loaded again, and the teams went on and arrived at Sturbridge as before stated.

The scene, as it presented itself to the mind of the writer of the narrative of the first settlement, as the light of day disclosed it the next morning, is described in the following words. "This place was then a desolate wilderness for a mile each way, except a few acres around this spot, which were cut over by a Mr. Whitcock." The "spot" referred to in the quotation, is located between the Brimfield and Holland roads, nearly opposite to the house occupied at the present time, by Mr. Abijah Prouty. Here commenced the first settlement of the Wight family in Worcester County, and here many interesting scenes have transpired since that early period, which are still fresh in the recollection of those who survive.

Mr. Wight and his boys went on to clear the land as fast as possible, and in 1775, had fine crops of grain and grass.

In 1776, he built a large barn on the tract of land between the two roads referred to above, and there it remained, as many will recollect, until about the year 1832. Ten years after the first settlement, Mr. Wight built a saw-mill over Cedar Brook, near the house of Mr. Ebenezer Howard. In 1787, he built the house which he afterwards occupied to the day of his death. The house is now owned by Mr. Abijah Prouty, and in point of location and construction, reflects great credit upon his judgment and taste in selecting

"a choice spot upon which to build a beautiful house." The barns and shed were built the year following.

It will be seen by the dates, that the improvements upon the new purchase, by way of clearing the land and putting up new buildings, were made during the Revolutionary war, at a period, when the price of almost every thing, was extremely high. This, in connection with the heavy purchase, and the depreciation of the paper currency, rendered the circumstances of Mr. Wight, for a few years, quite embarrassing. Mr. Brattle, who held paper to a considerable amount against Mr. Wight, left the country for Halifax during the war, and never returned. After he left, Mr. Wight received payment for the place sold in Medway, in paper money, and in consequence of the absence of Mr. Brattle, was not able to redeem his own paper with it. The result was, that the paper money depreciated in his hands, and subjected him to a loss of about two thousand dollars. But by a fortunate circumstance which took place at a subsequent period, and which will be adverted to hereafter, he was enabled "to work his way through," and settle his family upon the land of the first purchase.

The family of David and Catharine Wight consisted of four sons, all of whom were born in Medway, before they moved to Sturbridge. Each of these sons and their descendants will be noticed in the order of their ages.

David Wight 2nd, the oldest son, was born May 19th 1761. On the 19th of May, 1782, he became of age, and received of his father 58 acres of wild land, upon which he immediately commenced operations, clearing and preparing the ground for cultivation.

In the Spring of 1782, he made a tour to Medway, and to Boston, and on returning home, fell in company with Miss Susanna Harding, daughter of Mr. Thomas Harding of Medway, who was coming to Sturbridge to visit her friends. He thus formed an acquaintance with her, which resulted in their marriage, on the 7th of Nov. of the same

year. She did not, however, come to Sturbridge to live, until the next June. She was born March 3d, 1765.

In April, 1783, the frame of the second house, now standing on the farm of Col. D. Wight, was raised, and the building soon completed. At a subsequent period, fifteen years later, when it was determined to build a larger house, it became necessary to move this one, as it stood upon the spot most desirable for the new building, consequently it was moved from that spot to its present location, and is still a comfortable dwelling.

On the 9th of June, 1783, Mr. Wight moved his wife from Medway to Sturbridge, and commenced house-keeping in the new house.

In 1785, he built his first barn, and about the year 1791, purchased of Mr. Timothy Smith, his farm, which has since been known the town over, as the "Smith Place."

In 1792, he bought 130 acres of land, of his brother Oliver, which involved him considerably in debt. Two years after, he built another barn, some rods south of the first, and a long shed between them.

In Jan. 1796, while at Boston, with his father, to assist in making a settlement with Mr. Thomas Brattle, who came over from England, to settle up his father's estate, he bought a ticket in the Harvard College Lottery for ten dollars. In Jan. 1797, this ticket drew a prize of \$5000. He let his father have about \$2000 of this prize, and took land in exchange, still leaving to his father, land sufficient for a good farm, free from debt, which he occupied until the day of his death. The balance of the prize, \$3000, relieved him entirely from debt, and the addition of land received of his father for the \$2000, gave him possession of a large tract of land free from debt, and much of it heavily covered with wood and timber.

In the Spring of 1798, he commenced building the large two story house now owned by his son and grandson, and completed it in August, 1799. By accident in the Spring

of 1802, the saw-mill was burnt, and was rebuilt, the same year. In 1803, he bought a farm of Dr. Thomas Babbit, and four years afterwards, sold it to Capt. Benjamin Bullock of Salem. This farm, the inhabitants of the town of Sturbridge, at a subsequent period, purchased of the heirs of Capt. Bullock, for a pauper establishment, and it has since furnished a comfortable home for those, who by misfortune or otherwise, have been unable to furnish one for themselves."

This sketch informs us, that Mr. and Mrs. Wight, the ancestors, were industrious, persevering and energetic. These qualifications rendered them efficient promoters not only of their own interests, but those of the town. With the growth, the moral, educational, and religious interests of the town, they were identified more than sixty years.

And here we may fitly make a remark in relation to ministerial support and encouragement in those days. The inhabitants of the town for a long period, very much resembled one household, in regard to all their interests. The pastor was considered as permanently belonging to the family, respected and loved, as the spiritual guide.

One of the modes of manifesting their regard for him, was in the voluntary bestowment of a portion of their choicest productions. This was not only a matter of equity on account of the scanty salary, but its tendency evidently was to cement the union more firmly, and render it more cordial, and mutually useful. The annual turning out to supply the parson with a gigantic pile of wood, was a joyful occasion, full of pleasantries. Generosity was not confined to the article of fuel on those occasions, but very many other family requisites found their way into the pastor's dwelling. The giver and receiver were mutually gratified. By what name they were christened, we have not been informed. We apprehend the name of Donation Parties must be the ingenuity of modern refinement.

In returning to the subjects of this sketch, we further remark, they not only passed through the stirring scenes of the French war, but endured the privations and anxieties of the Revolution. Mr. Wight was judicious, but not so energetic as his wife. If she was the master spirit, it disturbed not in the least, the harmony of their course. Her energy is clearly marked in her descendants. If she had excentricities, they were by no means disagreeable. With the endless changes of fashion in dress, hers remained the same. At the age of 75, or even 80, it was a gratifying spectacle to see her on horseback, in the costume of her early days. She possessed a peculiar talent in conching her thoughts in laconic language. This was especially characteristic of her epistles, full of meaning, although sometimes a little enigmatical. Could they be collected, they certainly would be not only a literary curiosity, but a treasure of pithy sentiments.

Such families as Mr. Wight's, give character and respect to a town, by a judicious and exemplary management at home, and by cheerfully meeting the public claims. By a long course of industry, Mr. Wight was enabled to aid his sons in settling around him, and to leave a handsome estate. He died at the age of 89, and his wife at the age of 90.

His three sons settled in the neighborhood. Oliver, where the late Ebenezer Howard lived and died. He was a cabinet maker by trade. We subjoin a brief sketch of the other two, David and Alpheus.

### DAVID WIGHT, Esq.

The writer can speak of David Wight, the oldest son of David Wight, the ancestor, from a personal knowledge of his character, and personal acquaintance with him several years. At several periods, he represented the town in the General Court, and officiated as Town Clerk, and Justice of

the Peace many years. Those several trusts were discharged to the public acceptance. He frequently sat as a magistrate in the trial of actions. In this capacity he showed a discriminating mind, good common sense, and a desire that justice should be done to parties. He was above partiality or bias. Whatever he undertook, was executed with promptness and energy. He was an apt writer in point of penmanship and composition. Frequently called upon to draft instruments of various kinds, he could with great ease, shift his hand from the plow to the pen, and perform services of this sort with uncommon accuracy and propriety, considering his advantages. This we are ready to believe, was in some degree, a hereditary talent. He was active in promoting the instruction of the rising generation, religious institutions, and public improvements. He exemplified in his life his religious profession. His residence, now the residence of his son, Col. David, in the midst of rural beauty, always attracts the particular notice of the passing traveller. He was cut down in the midst of his usefulness, and in the maturity of all his faculties.

#### CAPT. ALPHEUS WIGHT.

The residence of the late Capt. Wight, another son, is on the same elevation of the old paternal mansion, commanding the same delightful view. Capt. Wight was far-sighted, enterprising, and discreet in his calculations. We speak of him particularly in reference to the accomplishment of an undertaking which will continue a durable monument of his enterprising character. We allude to the canal, about a half of a mile in length, skirting the road, and terminating at the old mill site. Regarding his ability, and the manner the work must be executed, it was thought to be a bold project. Those labor-saving machines for operations of this sort, were then unknown, consequently the excava-

tion was made entirely with the old fashioned shod shovel. His own anticipations, and public convenience were fully realized. The accomplishment of this undertaking was always a source of gratification to Capt. Wight. His mills had full employment for more than 60 years, and until the grist-mills were recently removed for the establishment of the present works. Capt. Wight will be remembered as the man who prepared the way for the flattering prosperity of this village. Not having an inclination for public trusts, his attention was principally confined to concerns of a more private character. His business transactions were performed with promptness and accuracy. His wealth enabled him to do much in sustaining public institutions. His children are numerous and highly respectable. He died on the 30th day of June, 1851, in the 80th year of his age.

The increase of population and mechanical enterprise, which has given a new aspect to Wight Village, claims some additional remarks to those already made. Capt. Wight's grist-mill, to which the farmers resorted with their grain for more than half a century, has given place to business of another character. Instead of converting grain into meal, iron and steel are wrought into beautifully polished instruments.

In the year 1842, the Messrs. Snell commenced the manufacture of Augers and other implements of this sort, in an old building, and carried it on successfully till the year 1852, when the building with its contents was destroyed by fire. Being desirous that the Company should remain in town, a handsome sum was contributed by individuals to encourage them to continue the business in the place.

In the year 1852, a large building, two stories, 100 by 32 feet, was erected on the site of the old one. Two stone buildings were erected the following year. One 36 by 46, and the other 100 by 45 feet. The latter, three stories, with a tower for a bell. Another building, four stories, of an



octagonal form, designed for a boarding house, has been completed. Other buildings for dwelling houses, have been erected, and new streets laid out. The works, for the prosecution of the enterprise, are conveniently arranged, and the business carried on in a systematic manner. The materials pass through several sets of hands in the various departments, before the article is ready for market. When thus finished with a high polish, not a spot or blemish can be discovered. It has gained a reputation of superiority, and commands an extensive market.

The walls of the octagonal building, are constructed of a cement, composed of sand and other materials, which is supposed to be equal to stone in durability. It is gratifying to record the progress of improvement, in any branch of useful industry. The improvement in the auger, within half of a century, has probably been a saving of a hundred per cent. in labor. It is obviously the interest of all, to encourage such improvements. Mutually dependant on each other progress in all the branches of industry, promotes the benefit of every class in the community. The agriculturalist, the manufacturer, the mechanic, the professional man, demand the patronage of each other. This mutuality of interest and dependence, is the spring of industry and enterprise, exerting a laudable emulation.

This village, as we have observed, commanding a beautiful view of rural scenery, is one of the most pleasant and inviting localities in town. Such localities are a cheering auxiliary to industrial pursuits. The Company have expended about \$30,000. The nature and situation of the grounds, were very favorable in regard to expense. The Company employed in 1854, about 75 hands in the prosecution of their regular business. The number the present year 1855, is less, in consequence of the general depression in business transactions.

## CENTRE VILLAGE, &c.

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COMPARING the present aspect of the centre village of Sturbridge, with its appearance in 1811, a very striking change is apparent. Beginning at the old parsonage locality, we will glance at some of the prominent changes.

The spot now exhibiting the beautiful residence of Mr. Southwick, was, about a century, occupied as the residence of the first three Congregational Ministers of Sturbridge:—viz. Mr. Rice, Mr. Paine, and Mr. Lane. The dwelling house was in style, according to the mode of building in the country about a century ago; being two stories in front, and a kitchen of one story in the rear. The chimney in the middle, occupied at the base, ten, or perhaps nearer fifteen feet square. There being no lack of materials, it was thoroughly built according to the taste of the times, and well adapted to the intended purpose.

Immediately in the rear of the house, two stately elms towered and waived in solemn grandeur. The buildings were thoroughly shaded, and the grounds about them ornamented and rendered useful with grapes, plums, peaches, pears, apples and many other kinds of fruit, intermixed with some trees merely for ornament.

The view northerly and westerly, is beautiful and expansive, and well calculated to elevate the thoughts and affections. Here was the spot, and here the house, in which minister and people were accustomed frequently to meet

in a business, social and religious capacity. Those frequent interviews were not a tax upon the minister's secular interests. He was not forgotten in regard to the things necessary to sustain and render life comfortable. Religious meetings in primitive days, were more frequently at the parsonage than at the present. This old parsonage was the Bethel, where minister and people, during a long succession of years, bowed together, at stated occasions, in devotion. It is even now remembered by some, as little less than holy ground. This short sketch is designed to perpetuate the remembrance of the spot. The Rev. Mr. Rice was the first settler of that locality.

Passing westerly, we come next to the venerable mansion built by Gen. Newell, and occupied by him more than half a century. He was the successor of Isaac Newell, the first settler of this locality. The building is a specimen of the earlier style of building, designed then to be of a superior order, which, with its former appendages and elevated position, presented a stately appearance. Mr. Bennett, the present proprietor, has removed the front fence, and made great changes around it. It is now more simple in appearance, and a relic, it is hoped, that may long remain. As we have elsewhere remarked, here was the centre of business many years. Opposite, and some twenty or thirty rods to the north, there still remains the handsome residence of Mr. Samuel Hobbs, erected by him, which has uniformly been kept by his son, Samuel, in a good state of repair. The buildings of which we are speaking, are specimens of thorough and durable architecture, more so than those of modern structure.

The next, was a two story dwelling-house, on the site now occupied by Mr. Hamant's beautiful residence. The next, a small one story dwelling-house, near the public-house. The public-house was erected by Col. Crafts, and is one of the oldest buildings in town. It has been greatly enlarged. Nearly opposite is the two story dwelling-house

built by Capt. Coburn, and now owned by Mrs. Hutchins. Thence on the hill, was the dwelling-house of Dea. Daniel Plimpton, now occupied as a work shop. This enumeration includes all the principal buildings (excepting the Church) in the center of the town, in 1811.

One of the old, one story buildings, owned and occupied by Maj. Thomas Upham, is very well remembered by the writer, as his first boarding place in the town. Its position was on an elevation, something more than a hundred yards southerly of the Gen. Newell house, on the east side of the road. The lower floor contained three small rooms, and a spacious location occupied by a chimney in the middle. The Major's household consisted of his wife, six children, a matron, clerk in the store, two girls in the kitchen, and the writer, as a boarder. Our table, abundantly supplied with choice viands, was always inviting to the dense circle gathered around it. The reader is left to tax his imagination as to our dormitories. He may be assured, we not only had an abundant supply to eat, but that we always slept soundly.

On a site a little more elevated, a few rods southeasterly, Maj. Upham erected the largest dwelling-house in town, furnishing him with ample room, in which he, his widow and two children died. This structure, with all the buildings connected with it, was destroyed by fire in the year 1844. It was then owned by Mr. E. Southwick.

Another one story old building, situated on the north side of the common, on the spot now occupied by Mr. Varney's dwelling-house, and the group of buildings near it, must not be passed over unnoticed. In the year 1811, it was untenanted, and presented a solitary appearance. However uninviting, we had no alternative in selecting it for an office. The east portion of the building was appropriated to that purpose, where we passed a rather solitary winter, without being much disturbed by clients. We soon became convinced that something more than a sign attached

to the building, was necessary to give publicity that a lawyer by profession was secluded within. The retreat had some redeeming advantages. We could uninterruptedly ponder upon the pages of Blackstone, and other sages of the law. For many a long day, we were scarcely interrupted with a request to call an offender, or a debtor, to an account. We began to think it was not a very cheering position for a penniless young man.

In the rear of this position, there was a very prolific growth of white birches and alders, spreading over an area of many acres. The turnpike-road had recently found its way through them, which promised something a little more flattering in the line of business. There was no dwelling-house on the eastern route nearer than Capt. Bullock's, now owned by the town.

The same view of dense white birches met the eye westerly of the Church. They were spread over an extensive surface in that direction. The grove of oaks easterly of the church, was more than twice as large as it is at the present time. One of these majestic sons of the forest, standing near the road, was cherished and guarded with paternal care by the early settlers. At a late period of its history, it exhibited marks of violence. One of the noble branches of this venerated relic, was first severed, by a violent wind from its trunk, near the ground. The other portion exhibited melancholy proof that it must soon follow. A few years after, it yielded to the overwhelming power of the tempest, which it had defied for more than a century. We could hardly suppress a tear, when we saw our venerated friend and early acquaintance in ruins.

We might point out the minute changes in the surface of the ground, but the perusal would be tedious.

The brow of the elevation, on which the dwellings of George Davis and others stand, extended as far south as the site of Mr. J. Rice's house. The road being there very narrow, passed in a curving course.

In front of the house of Dr. Sanders, there was a hollow eight or ten feet deep, resembling a large basin, overgrown with bushes, and at certain seasons of the year partially filled with water.

We are informed by Mr. Thomas Lyon, that Elijah Marcy, a son of Col. Marcy, built and kept the first public-house in town. It was situated on the northerly side of the highway, near Mrs. Hutchin's dwelling-house. We are also informed by him, that there was a saw-mill on the Hobbs Brook, for some years. It was found, on experiment, that a sufficiency of water could not be secured to render its continuance profitable. There was also a potash establishment in the village, near this Brook, which was in successful operation many years. The business of making potash, was formerly in this region of country, carried on extensively and profitably.

This village makes no claims to rapidity of growth, or an extraordinary spirit of enterprise. Although gradual, it is very evident that there has been progress.

The buildings are not expensive, but neat and comfortable; generally kept in a good and handsome condition, presenting an appearance of thrift.

In regard to public buildings, the Congregational Meeting house was built in the year 1785.

The Town-house in 1838.

A large brick School-house was built in 1851. It was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1855, and rebuilt the same year.

Although the ground, for building in the central portion of the village, is mostly occupied, there is ample room for its convenient and handsome enlargement in various directions. If the manufacture of boots and shoes, recently commenced by Messrs. Southwick and Allen, should prosper, this will be necessary, not only for this purpose, but for the convenience of other mechanical enterprises.

Within the last twenty years, gratifying attention has

been paid to the cultivation of fruit and ornamental trees in this village.

The impression formerly prevailed, that the soil in the central portion of the village, was not very well adapted to the growth of apple-trees. Experience has proved the incorrectness of this impression. They are as productive, as in any other portion of the town, and the fruit equal in flavor.

We should do injustice to the central Village, not to add, that it is pleasant in appearance, and possesses inviting scenery. There are points of elevation, where the eye can survey a bold and beautiful landscape. The elevation where the Church stands, is one of those points. Here, Fisk-Hill, with its gentle descent, and the valley between, appear to admirable advantage. Take another point, a little southerly of the old burying ground, you have a more bold and expansive view. The center Village has some venerated attractions. It is the oldest in the two towns, and was selected for public buildings by the first settlers. Here they met and consulted together, and laid their plans for their own, and the interests of coming generations. Here they met as soldiers, and trained, and disciplined themselves to meet the appalling conflict which summoned all their courage and every manly virtue. Here too, they erected the first Altar, where they consecrated themselves to that good Being, who had watched over, guided, and sustained them, in all their trials. Here successive generations have convened to worship the God of their fathers, and also to deliberate together, and transact their municipal concerns, and here sleep their ashes. Surely it is a spot which claims remembrance.

An establishment for the manufacture of shoe-making tools, situated about a half of a mile northeasterly of the central church, has been in operation about ten years. The business was commenced and carried on till recently by Mr. Sumner Packard. Mr. Varney, the present proprie-

tor, succeeded him in the concern. About twelve or fifteen hands are usually employed in the establishment. The articles manufactured are a great improvement on those formerly in use, and may be ranked among the useful improvements of the present day. The manufacture of boots and shoes, has become one of the most important branches of industry in the Commonwealth. The capital thus invested, is hardly second to any other branch of business.

The original works, in this locality, were constructed and used, during several years, for the manufacture of pistols. Dr. Seabury, then of Southbridge, was the principal proprietor. The change, which has succeeded in the article manufactured, is quite as compatible with pacific principles, and quite as useful to the public.



## NAMES OF ORIGINAL SETTLERS, &c.

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THE name of Allen appears among the early settlers, and has been very common in Sturbridge. They probably sprang from Nehemiah and Isaac Allen. Nehemiah had seven sons, viz :—Timothy, Nehemiah, Jacob, Eliphalet, Abel, David and Abner. Hezekiah, still living, is a son of Timothy. Isaac Allen had five sons, viz :—Aaron, Simeon, Caleb, the revolutionary soldier, Elisha, and Ithamar. They all lived to advanced life. The sons of these two individuals were adults during the revolutionary period, and shared in its privations. The Allens of this town, have sustained a very respectable standing. We are indebted to Mr. Hezekiah Allen, for the names and parentage. Mr. Hezekiah has represented the town, in the Legislature, and frequently discharged other trusts, as an officer of the town.

Joshua Harding lived in that part of the town, now Southbridge. He was in the Revolutionary war as we have stated. The town records show that he, as well as his son Joshua, possessed superior qualifications for the office of Town-Clerk. The several Harding families in town, now greatly diminished, sustained a very creditable standing. Joshua, senior, died in 1797, in the 71st year of his age. The same may be said of the Freeman families. Some of them were prominent men.

Maj. Samnel Freeman was one of the most capable men of Sturbridge. In the earlier part of his life, he was employed for many years, in the winter season, as a very acceptable teacher of common schools. He wrote a very legible and beautiful hand, and was a good arithmetician. He was also extensively employed as an accurate surveyor of lands. Few, not having had professional advantages, were his equal as a draftsman of instruments of various kinds. He discharged the duties of magistrate. In town affairs, especially if important, his services were always sought. He represented the town, at several periods, in the Legislature. He was not only a valuable townsman and citizen, but an exemplary and active christian. While thus exerting his usefulness, he removed with his numerous family into the state of Ohio, where, as a prominent pioneer, he exerted a salutary and controlling influence, till the close of life.

We suppose Maj. Freeman was a descendant of Samuel Freeman, who was one of the first settlers in what is now the middle of the town of Southbridge.

Elijah Plimpton, the father of Elijah, who was in the revolutionary service, came to this town from Medfield. James Plimpton also came from the same place. He was the father of Dea. Joel, Jephthah and Ziba. Dea. Joel Plimpton lived to an advanced age, a very exemplary man and christian. The same may be said of Ziba. Jephthah was a very upright man, and frequently a town officer.

Elijah Plimpton, senior, and James, were among the first settlers in the southern part of the town. The widow of Elijah Plimpton Jr. drew a pension in consequence of her husband's revolutionary services. She was a woman of uncommon firmness and decision of character. She died at the age of 95.

Mr. Seth Turner was another emigrant from Medway. He was one of the first settlers as we suppose. He lived in the northerly part of the town. On our first

acquaintance, he was advanced in years. He possessed a large landed estate. He was an upright man, and an exemplary citizen. He was the father of Edward Turner, the clergyman extensively known as a man of talents and respectability. The father, with his silver locks, and venerable appearance, reminded one of the ancient patriarchs, recorded in Scripture. Mr. Turner died in 1838, in the ninety second year of his age. We have not been able to ascertain whether he was in either the French, or Revolutionary wars.

Jonathan Gibbs and his brother Zepheniah, lived in the southerly part of the town. Jonathan was during life, one of the most substantial men of the town. As a farmer, his work was always performed in season, and well done. Possessing a strong physical constitution, discreet in calculations, prompt, energetic, and decisive—whatever he undertook was accomplished. He always found time for all his secular concerns, and for punctual attendance at religious meetings. Of whatever, in his opinion would promote public convenience, the moral, civil and religious interests of the community, he was an active supporter. In his manners, very plain, frank and social. He died on the 24th day of August, in the 95th year of his age. His brother Zepheniah was a respectable man. Mr. J. Gibbs must have been one of the first settlers in the south part of the town.

### THE DENESON FAMILY.

We find in the old burying ground, two monuments, well wrought, durable, and large, compared with those of that period, bearing the names of James Deneson and his wife. It appears from the inscription, Mr. Deneson was born in Scotland, and was one of the first settlers. He died in 1785, in the 85th year of his age. It was evidently a family of notoriety, as the name of Deneson is still familiar among the aged people.

Samuel Hamant, and Job Hamant, brothers, came into this town in early life, from Medfield. They were the ancestors of the Hamants of this town and vicinity. Carpenters by trade, they carried on, in connection with it, the business of farming. They sustained their shares in the burdens of the revolutionary contest, by employing others for active service. Dea. Job. Hamant, during a long period, was an officer of the Church, and Town-Clerk. Being the only land surveyor in town, his time was very much occupied in surveying land. He made a very minute survey of the town, designating upon his plan, the ponds, river, brooks, roads, houses, and other particulars. He made three plans, one for the town, one for himself, and another for his brother. It is to be regretted that none of them are now to be found. The deer were quite common in his day, in this region of country. We are informed that the last that was killed in town, was by him.

Dea. Hamant married Jemima Baker, daughter of Joseph Baker, who was one of the first settlers on, or in the neighborhood of Shumway Hill. He was very exemplary, as a citizen, a townsman, and a christian. This exemplary character is peculiarly marked in the lives of the descendants of those worthy progenitors. Dea. Hamant died in 1810, in the 68th year of his age.

Dea. Hamant was the father of Dr. Hamant of Union, very respectable as a man, and a physician, also of the late Job Hamant, a very worthy townsman, and an exemplary christian, and also of Mrs. Dunton the widow of the late Dea. Dunton of Sturbridge. Mr. Charles Hamant, who is at the head of the Seminary in Groton, is a grandson.

We find in examining the town records, that Mr. Samuel Hamant was an active and influential man in town. He was, for several years in succession, one of the selectmen. He was the first settler in that locality, where Mr. Absalom Stockwell resides. The Hamant Brook, (so called,) undoubtedly took its name from him.

## CAPT. PEREZ WALKER.

Capt. Walker was a son of Josiah Walker, one of the early settlers of Sturbridge. Josiah Walker bore arms in the French war. He represented the town a number of years, in the general Court, and was an active and useful townsman. A member of the church, he was an able supporter of religion. Mr. Josiah Walker was, in person, tall, stout, and possessed great physical and mental energy. Whatever he purposed, was accomplished, if practicable. It was a prevalent notion in those days, to retain the homestead entire, in its descent, in the name of the ancestors; thereby perpetuating their memory. In this respect it is laudable, and salutary in its tendency. Perez became the possessor of the large paternal homestead. He did not aspire to public distinction, but was contented to be an exemplary and energetic farmer. This business, he carried on quite as extensively as any other man in town. In whatever was to be done, he always led the way, not exacting of his workmen any thing unreasonable. His table was spread with every thing requisite to sustain and invigorate the constitution. In reference to his moral, benevolent, and religious course, acts rather than words developed his controlling principles. At the commencement of the temperance reformation, he had for some time been lucratively engaged in distilling various materials into intoxicating liquors. As soon as he became convinced that his distillery was unfavorable to the cause of temperance, he instantly abandoned the business. He was surprised, and regretted, that he had not earlier made the discovery. When it was found to be necessary and convenient to have the Congregational church re-modelled; and after meetings were multiplied, much debating, and considerable opposition, Capt. Walker offered to take upon himself the responsibility of making

the alteration. His proposals were accepted. His time and attention were devoted to the work. It was accomplished to the general satisfaction. The society had the benefit of his personal services, and a pecuniary deficiency, which he sustained, of between one and two hundred dollars. The reflection, that a useful undertaking had been accomplished, was all the compensation he desired. For more than thirty years, various benevolent and literary institutions, and numerous other objects of utility and charity, can bear testimony to his liberality. He paid one hundred dollars annually, during five or six years in supporting a missionary at the West. The crowning act of his benevolence was the bequest of two thousand dollars to five different benevolent societies. Considering the amount of his property, few have done more for benevolent purposes. Having only the common means of a farmer, how could he do so much for such objects as we have mentioned, aid his children liberally, while living, and leave a very handsome estate for his widow and children? The answer is given in a few words. Industry, promptness, economy, and discreet calculation marked his course. We must add, as not the least efficient cause of success, the harmonious co-operation of his companion. Many years before his death, they had unitedly made a public profession of religion. It was illustrated by him, more by example, than words. In private conversation he spoke of religion freely, in regard to his own feelings. It was evident that his external acts emanated from conscientious motives. The question with him was, in relation to any particular course of conduct, is it *right*? is it *duty*? Capt. Walker was in person, above the ordinary size, of a sedate and commanding countenance, and of agreeable manners. He died on the 17th day of Aug. 1851, in the 81st year of his age.

Since sketching several individuals of the Walker family, we have been favored, by a distinguished descendant of Nathaniel Walker, with the genealogy of this ancestor.

Nathaniel was the son of John Walker, of Newton, who was the son of Samuel Walker of Woburn; who was the son of Augustine Walker of Charlestown, who was made a freeman in that town, in 1641, and died soon after, at Bilbao, in Spain. He was master of a merchant vessel.

President Walker, of Harvard University, and Judge Walker, of Cincinnati, Ohio, are descendants of Augustine. Nathaniel settled in Sturbridge, in 1748. He was a carpenter, and worked in building the first meeting-house. He married Submit Brewer, each of whose brothers, David and Jonathan commanded a regiment, in the Revolutionary war, and fell during the Campaign against Burgoyne. The eleven children of Nathaniel, were as follows, viz:—James, who removed to Belchertown, and had nine children; Mary, who married a Mr. Richardson, and Lucy, who married Maj. Comfort Freeman, of Sturbridge; Nathaniel, who settled in Sturbridge; Phineas, who removed to Woodstock, Ct. had nine children; Asa, who lived on Lebanon Hill; Josiah, who remained on the homestead; Beulah, who married a Mr. White, and removed to Middlefield; Joel, who removed to Vermont; Lydia, and Submit, who never married. The first dwelling-house, on the spot where Mr. Walker settled, was erected by him, more than a century ago. It is now a very comfortable residence. The shingles on the north end are in a good condition, and would, apparently, with proper care, weather half of another century. His descendants are numerous, and exhibit his exemplary traits of character. He was captain of a militia company. Capt. Nathaniel Walker died Feb. 5th, 1783. He lived to witness the triumphant result of the American Arms. Chester Walker, of the fourth generation, is the proprietor and occupant of the old homestead. Mr. Nathaniel Walker, still living, having long enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the community, is a grandson.

## JOHN HOLBROOK, Esq.

Mr. Holbrook was in the revolutionary service. How long, we are not able to state.

He held the office of deputy Sheriff, many years, which, at that period, required no inconsiderable active duty. If he occasionally lacked a little in the exercise of lenity, it must have originated from the dictate of his feelings to be prompt and energetic in the discharge of duties and obligations, and a desire that other men should be equally so. He also held a commission of Justice of the Peace.

Decision, perseverance, and energy, were his peculiar characteristics. These, together with industry, enabled him to acquire an estate almost equal to that of any other man in town. He never complained that his taxes were too high, and cheerfully bore a part in sustaining whatever public utility required. At an advanced age, he made a public profession of religion, and manifested its influence in his life. He lived in that stirring period of our history which demanded firm and decisive character. That trait of character peculiarly marked the men of that period. As we have noticed in another place, he bore arms in the revolutionary war. He settled in the western part of the town, near the Brimfield line.

## DR. THOMAS BABBIT.

Dr. Babbit was a native of Sturbridge, and a son of the second practising physician in the town. His father was energetic, and commanded an extensive practice, but was not refined in his manners, or conversation. He was attentive to the instruction of his children, and gave two of his sons a collegiate and professional education. Thomas was a graduate of Harvard, and student of Dr. Warren, the acknow-



ledged head of the profession in New-England; and probably on this side of the Atlantic. Dr. Babbit was surgeon of a squadron under the command of the fearless Gen. Eaton, who rendered signal service to his country by teaching a lawless people a lesson which they have not forgotten. There is no doubt his professional opportunities, in this expedition, were well improved. The writer's acquaintance with him, commenced after his return. Although his location after this period was in Brookfield, his skill and practise were not confined to that town, or even the adjacent towns. If any difficult case occurred, which baffled the skill of common practitioners, Babbit was the man. Quick and sagacious, but not rash in determining what ought to be done, he went resolutely to work, and left nothing undone which could be effected by his ingenuity and skill. In extreme cases, his judgment and sagacity, often enabled him to deviate successfully from the common practice. Recovery in many a hopeless case, might be ascribed to his instrumentality, so far as human agency is concerned. In cases where counsellors doubted, the result proved the correctness of his course. We remember well that alarming and nondescript disease, called the spotted fever. Dr. Babbit watched its fearful progress for months before it appeared in his vicinity, and endeavored to prepare himself, as much as possible, to meet it. Probably there never existed a greater degree of terror than was manifested on its near approach. The march of a desolating army could not equal it in dread. Brandy was recommended as an antidote. The fears, and senses likewise, of many were allayed by its influence. Babbit discountenanced all such indiscretion and folly. Day and night, week after week, Dr. Babbit was in the midst of this appalling scourge, exerting all his professional resources to arrest its progress. As a physician and surgeon, he had not a superior in this region. Cut down in the midst of his usefulness, his loss was extensively felt. He was

generous almost to a fault. To his generosity, and a want of attention to money matters, may be ascribed his limited means. He had imperfections—he possessed also noble traits of character. In person, large and dignified, in manners and conversation, easy, intelligent and pleasing. He was exceedingly fond of society. One of his sons became a distinguished naval officer.

### HON. JABEZ UPHAM.

Jabez Upham was the first lawyer who practised law in Sturbridge. Here he began his professional career, but not receiving very flattering encouragement, after one or two years, he removed to Claremont, N. H. where he was in the practice a short time. From that place, he removed to Brookfield, (now West Brookfield,) where he was engaged in his profession till the close of life. Industry and perseverance enabled him steadily to rise in his profession. After a few years, he commanded an extensive business, as a collector, and as an advocate. He examined his cases for trial with unwearied research, and left nothing undone, which he could fairly and honorably do for his client. If his client's side of the case was evidently such, after a thorough examination, that it would not be safe for him to go to trial, he did not hesitate to tell him so. In the trial of important causes, the opposing counsel, frequently found it necessary to summon all his resources to meet his antagonist. He was uncommonly successful in the result of his cases. He possessed the implicit confidence of his clients. He worked faithfully for them, and required a fair equivalent. Fraud and deception received from him such rebuke as would not soon be forgotten. His office was considered to be an eligible place for students, and was the resort of many young men. He came to the bar when such men as Gov. Lincoln, the elder, Gov. Strong, and Gov. Sullivan, were constant attendants of the Supreme Court in the

County of Worcester, and who stood in the front rank of the profession. The brilliant and eloquent Francis Blake, came to the bar about the same time, or soon after. Mr. Upham sustained, if not an equal, a very respectable standing among such men, as a lawyer and advocate. He frequently represented his town and county in the Legislature. He also represented his District, during four or six years in Congress. He was a member of that body, at that period when the world was watching with solicitude and astonishment, the mighty movements of the Emperor of France, at that period when the eccentric John Randolph was at the meridian of his glory. To see and hear John Randolph, was one of the chief attractions of the visitor at Washington. There were also at that time, in that body, such men as Pickering and Hillhouse, strong men of the Revolution, and Clay and Calhoun, who had started in their brilliant career. As a member of Congress, Mr. Upham exerted a salutary influence, and was highly respected. A valetudinarian during the latter part of his life, he suffered severely at times, from ill health and depression of spirits. He found in his wife, (one of the most amiable of women,) to whom he was devotedly attached, such a companion, in every respect, as he needed. In his domestic relations, no man could be more happy.

He possessed a great share of that useful kind of sense, denominated *common sense*. Not favored with extraordinary natural endowments, unremitting application made him, in a great measure, what he was. In person, very tall, he was dignified and gentlemanly in appearance and manners. Strict integrity and a high sense of honorable dealing characterised his life. He had, for many years previous to his death, made a public profession of religion, which was uniformly exemplified in his daily deportment. He died in the midst of his usefulness, in the year 1813, aged 47.

Mr. Upham belonged to a family of distinction and extensive influence. He was a native of Brookfield, a son of Phineas Upham, Esq. Phineas Upham, Jr. Esq. another son, has for more than half a century, been one of the most respectable and prominent business men of Boston. He is the only surviving brother of Jabez. Henry Upham, Esq. a highly respectable merchant of Boston, is the only surviving member of the family of Jabez.

### DR. ABISHAI HOWARD.

Dr. Howard was a native of Sturbridge, a son of Eleazer Howard, who was in the French and Revolutionary war. He was cotemporary with Dr. Corey, the elder, although some years his junior. He was in active practice more than fifty years. Although not favored with regular literary advantages, his acquirements in literature and professional knowledge, were such as rendered him a safe and useful practitioner. He was a student of Dr. Eaton of Dudley, who stood high in his profession, and whose services were extensively sought. Dr. Howard made Dr. Eaton his model in practice. In his prescriptions, in chronic complaints, he depended very much upon what he could gather from the fields and forests. He was exceedingly attentive to his patients, and anxious to do, and have done for them, all, that in any way, might be of service.

He was punctual in all his business transactions. In his day, a farm seemed to be almost an indispensable appendage to the medical profession. The Doctor was a practical farmer. His house exhibited cheering evidence that he was not wanting in skill in this department. It was abundantly replenished with all the necessities, and not wanting in the choice things of life. Plain in his dress, every thing in and out of his house exhibited the same characteristics of economy and utility. His amiable and frugal companion was a hearty co-worker. They were both bright examples in their moral and religious character. The Bible

and Scott's Commentaries were their constant companions. None of the extravagant excitements of the times, ever diverted them from a straight-forward, uniform course. The husband survived the wife a few years. The Doctor was a kind and benevolent man. Although his estate was not large, he bequeathed for benevolent objects the sum of \$300. Dr. Howard died Dec. 1, 1844, aged 77.

### DR. JACOB COREY.

Dr. Corey was born in Sturbridge, where he passed a long life. His father and grandfather bore the name of John. By profession a physician, he had an extensive and successful practice for more than sixty years. In regard to his preparatory course for his profession, his academic advantages were limited. He studied medicine under the instruction of Dr. John Frink, of Rutland, a man of considerable distinction in his profession. If his attainments were circumscribed at the commencement of his practice, they were constantly increasing by unremitted application. He was a great reader, not only of medical authors, but of almost every literary work that attracted his attention. His marginal sketches were very copious. On the inspection of his books and papers, after his decease, it was surprising to witness his voluminous manuscripts, on a great variety of subjects, a striking evidence of his wonderful industry. He appeared to be almost incessantly employed by day and by night in his profession. When not thus occupied, and at home, he was generally seen very busy on his farm, among his workmen, in the garden, or among his fruit trees. He was very fond of cultivating the latter. His garden contained a variety of medical productions, which might be useful in his profession, and were thus applied, if deemed suitable. The saw, the hoe, and the pruning knife, were his familiar companions. When did he find time to keep his accounts, which

were in his own hand, when to read and write so much, is an enquiry which supposes extraordinary industry. Favored with a cheerful countenance, and a great flow of spirits, his patients soon felt their genial influence. If the patient required little else beside such an influence, his prescriptions were accordingly. Often, in this way, in cases of despondency, was he known to cheer up the patient, and give a favorable turn to the disease. He had few equals in the treatment of fevers. His visits were always on horse-back, and embraced an extensive circuit. To multiply his labors, he held the offices of town-clerk and town-treasurer for many years. His influence, the last years of his life, in favor of the temperance reformation, is worthy of notice. Doubting for a while, whether a person who had long been accustomed to the use of stimulants, especially in the warm season of the year, and in laborious occupations, could safely dispense with them entirely, he became convinced that it was practicable, and that more labor could be performed, and in a more acceptable manner without such stimulants. This conviction was confirmed by observation, and an experiment upon himself.

He cheerfully patronized common schools. He gave his own children more extended advantages than could be obtained in them. He also patronized religious institutions, and frequently manifested his need of a personal interest in religion. He never made a public profession of religion. His house was characterized by hospitality and cheerfulness. He left a very handsome estate for his children, and had he not been lenient in enforcing the payment of his demands, he might have left them much more. Dr. Corey's dress was always plain, durable, and mostly the manufacture of his own household. In person, he was stout and healthy, possessing a cheerful and animated countenance. In conversation affable, intelligent, and not unfrequently seasoned with amusing anecdotes. He possessed

the full command of his mental faculties, till his last hour. He died at the age of 83, May 17th, 1839.

Dr. Corey's grandfather was the first settler of the spot, about a mile northwesterly of the Congregational Church, where the late Capt. David Corey resided. His farm was probably extensive. Some vestiges may be traced where the old buildings stood.

### DR. JACOB COREY, JR.

Dr. Corey was the son of Dr. J. Corey, a sketch of whose character has been given. The writer during many years, enjoyed his endearing society, and had become well acquainted with his moral excellencies, his literary and professional attainments. Witnessing his early fondness for books, and indications of promise, the father was disposed to encourage both, by giving him a public education. Well fitted for college, he passed through his collegiate course with a high reputation as a scholar, and as an amiable young man. Gov. Marcy, and the Hon. J. J. Fiske, were his townsmen and class-mates. His opportunities, to become fitted for his profession, were favorable, and industriously improved. About the time he was commencing practice, he was reduced very low by a severe fit of sickness. Being afterwards subject to mental depression, supposed to be the effect, in some way, of this sickness, his practice was suspended for some years. This infirmity gradually passed away, although its tendency was to curtail, for a time, his usefulness. He resumed practice, and continued a safe and useful practitioner through life. In the treatment of dislocated joints, broken bones, or any violent disorganization of the body, he had few superiors in the country.

He was a good mathematical scholar, and fond of the languages, especially of the Greek ; it was his custom through life, to peruse ancient authors in that language. He uniformly read the Greek Testament on the Sabbath. He was deeply

interested in the primary schools, and one of the school committee many years, and spared no pains to render himself useful in that responsible trust. He was induced at two several periods, to accept the offices of town-clerk and town-treasurer, which were discharged with the utmost promptness and accuracy.

He possessed a nice literary taste, and was equally so in his sense of propriety, in his intercourse in life. No man was more honest in his dealing, or more opposed to any conduct which might bear the semblance of duplicity or dishonesty. He resorted to no artful means to become popular, or gain a point, although he was universally beloved. He was a kind and affectionate husband and parent, and a humble and devoted christian. He was very appropriately denominated, after his decease, the "beloved physician." This imperfect sketch is cheerfully given in hope of its salutary influence. We may add, Dr. Corey was eminently a peace-maker. If society were composed of such men as Dr. Corey, it would exhibit an aspect much more in harmony with those divine precepts which he endeavored to illustrate in his life.



## REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.

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MR. SAMUEL HOBBS.

As Mr. Hobbs is admitted to be one of the party in disguise, who steeped a cargo of tea in the waters of Boston Harbor, we connect with his name, a sketch of the transactions which led to that event. A series of oppressive measures, during five or six years, waxing worse and worse, and more and more irritating, were followed up, one after another, till the crisis of determined resistance arrived. Unjustifiable taxation was the principal cause of complaint. The union of representation and taxation, universally allowed to be inseparable in just legislation, was totally disregarded in the policy of the mother country, towards her American Colonies. The stamp act, (so called,) was a measure peculiarly odious and oppressive in its requisitions. Almost every kind of instrument, to render it legal, must be written on stamped paper, claiming a high duty. It was universally denounced as oppressive and unjust, and evaded in every way ingenuity could invent.

Duties on articles of necessary consumption, were almost equally burdensome. Conspicuous among these, was the article of tea. The fairer portion of the community, manifested their patriotism, in an extraordinary degree of self-denial, in opposing this measure. This laudable example,

without doubt, prepared the way for an act of opposition, of a more signal character. Our history presents none more so, than the fearless transaction of casting into Boston Harbor, a cargo of tea. Two or three companies of young men, in the disguise of Indians, are entitled to the honor of dispatching the work. The people of Boston rushed to the spot, to witness this novel and extraordinary exhibition. These Mohawks, in their boats, surrounded the freighted vessel, immediately boarded, and relieved her of her burden. Boston Harbor, at this juncture, must have presented the largest preparation, of the cheering beverage, that has ever been witnessed. It was not an oblation to appease a heathen deity, but a most significant indication, that the crisis of resistance to unwarrantable requisitions, had arrived. This transaction, full of meaning, could not be misunderstood. It was, no doubt, countenanced, if not projected by the leading men of Boston. The intelligence spread, with electric velocity, over the country. It soon reached the ears of his majesty. It was received by him, and those who adhered to coercive measures, with no very pleasant emotions. The effect was very different on the party for conciliation, although not allowed to be a justifiable act. The Boston port bill was passed under the angry excitement of this intelligence. This act prohibited the lading or unlading of all goods and merchandize, in the Port of Boston. Its passage was powerfully opposed by the opposition in Parliament, but to no purpose. The main object of this bill, undoubtedly was, to chastise the Bostonians. The opposition warned the administration of consequences, which would be, to unite the colonies more firmly in a combined resistance—1774 was the memorable era of this last oppressive measure. The paper blockade of Boston, was immediately followed by an armed force. The state of affairs, at this juncture, was rapidly tending to a point of decisive action, by both parties. The Declaration of Independence soon followed.

It must be remembered, as in some degree redeeming the character of the mother Country, that a powerful party, including the lights of the nation, both in and out of parliament, were decidedly opposed to the measures of the dominant party. To the former party belonged men of no less eminence, than the Earle of Chatham, Burke, Fox, and a multitude of others, who were in favor of conciliatory measures, and decidedly opposed to taxation. The strongest man who favored the controlling party, was the celebrated Dr. Johnson. It is very doubtful whether the Doctor was entitled to the highest rank as a statesman. Dean Tucker was in favor of acknowledging unconditionally, the independence of the American Colonies. He stood alone in his views. The result showed his wise forecast, and, what is better, a noble and humane heart. There is another circumstance which aggravated these oppressive measures. The Colonies had recently borne the heat and burden of the French war, which resulted in the conquest of the Canadas. It must also be remembered, that they received very little aid from the mother Country, in struggling up to manhood. The exactions from them, were not to promote their growth and prosperity, but to sustain armies and navies, in enabling her to retain and extend her conquests. We are more surprised at so protracted forbearance, than that decided resistance should have commenced so soon. Had there been no grounds for those complaints, to which we have alluded, it was totally incompatible with the character and circumstances of the Colonies to remain longer subject to any nation. They had grown to such a state of maturity as fitted them for self-government, of which they gave unmistakable evidence. It is a matter of surprise, that the indomitable Saxon spirit could have been soothed so long, and to such a degree of forbearance.

Mr. Hobbs was a native of Weston. He removed in early life to Sturbridge, where he established the tanning business in the middle of the town. This branch of busi-

ness, in connection with agriculture, he successfully pursued till near the close of life. He was noted for the superiority and faithfulness of his work. Mr. Hobbs had but few superiors in the methodical management of his affairs, and in judgment and taste in the arrangement and construction of his buildings for convenience and durability. Strict integrity and an exemplary deportment marked his course through life. For many years, he was officially concerned in municipal affairs. His views in regard to the revolutionary struggle, were very strikingly developed in the transaction to which we have alluded. He found it more convenient to hire a substitute, for active service in the field. In the year 1811, when our acquaintance commenced, Gen. Newell, Dr. Corey, Mr. Hobbs, and Maj. Upham, were the leading men, in the centre of the town. In a physical point of view men have degenerated. Mr. Hobbs was, in stature, six feet three inches; broad shoulders, large and full chest, and of dignified appearance. He died May 11th, 1823, aged 71.

### COL. NATHAN RICE.

Col. Nathan Rice, a son of the Rev. Nathan Rice, the first settled minister in Sturbridge, and the first settler of the old parsonage locality, may properly be claimed as one of our sons, who bore arms in the Revolution; although we are not positive, that he resided in Sturbridge when he entered the service. The writer, having had a personal acquaintance with Col. Rice, has heard him converse on the events of the Revolution, and particularly, while connected with Gen. Lincoln, as his aid. This connection favored him with an opportunity of becoming extensively acquainted with the officers, and the most important transactions of that trying period. It was a school which fitted him for important military trusts, after the close of the war. He spoke of Gen. Lincoln as an able officer, although his posi-

tion, at times, had been unfortunate for him. The General, he observed, was affected with a lethargic difficulty, and often suddenly overtaken by sleep, when not actively employed. What was very peculiar, he could relate what was said in his hearing, during this state of lethargy. This propensity did not disqualify him, in the least, for the discharge of his official duties. We have no document to enable us to show the exact period of Col. Rice's revolutionary services. We believe he was present at the memorable surrender of Cornwallis, at Yorktown, which was made to Gen. Lincoln, by the direction of Washington. This mark of respect to Gen. Lincoln, was in consequence of the humiliating terms Cornwallis had imposed on Gen. Lincoln, eighteen months prior to his own surrender. Here we see Washington yielding to another, what was due to himself. How many incidents of this sort, gem that radiant character!

Col. Rice was a graduate of Harvard, and must have entered the service soon after leaving the University, and when quite young.

We find him, some years after the close of the war, entrusted with an important military command. After the French revolution had made some progress, England and France were again involved in war with each other, which was prosecuted with vigor, and no small degree of rancor. As might be expected, under such circumstances, both looked with a jealous eye toward America. France, in particular, charged the Americans with partiality toward her enemy. Hence events, not very weighty, if viewed with a pacific spirit, were magnified into a serious misunderstanding between us and France. Envoy after envoy was sent to adjust difficulties. In the year 1799, the army was augmented, on the ground of an apprehended rupture with France. At this time, a body of troops was stationed at Oxford, under the chief command of Col. Rice. The writer recollects very well, when Gen. Hamilton came and inspected those

troops. All, who heard Hamilton address them, admired his extraordinary powers. He was the great man in the field, as well as in the Cabinet. After Napoleon assumed the reins of the French Government, the difficulties between us and France were settled, and the Oxford army disbanded. Col. Rice removed from Hingham to Burlington Vt. where he passed the remainder of his life in agricultural pursuits.

Col. Rice and President Monroe were in the army together, and intimate friends. President Monroe, in his tour to the north, spent as much time in visiting his old companion in arms, as circumstances would permit. The interview was a treat of the most gratifying reminiscences. We allude to this visit, to show the strong attachment which existed among many of those revolutionary patriots. The trying scenes through which they passed together, were peculiarly calculated to perpetuate the attachment. Col. Rice was an accomplished gentleman, as well as an accomplished officer. He possessed literary taste, as well as military science. Possessing a large fund of interesting facts, his conversation was highly instructive. Although a little below mediocrity, in stature, his appearance as an officer was dignified and commanding. We well remember seeing him, while commander at Oxford, at the great gathering in Worcester, on the memorable 22d of Feb. 1800, a day in which Washington was the theme of eulogy, throughout the length and breadth of his country.

#### CAPT. BENJAMIN FELTON.

Capt. Benjamin Felton was born in Danvers, Mass. March 4th, 1740. In 1755, he removed with his father to Rutland, Mass. At the age of seventeen, he enlisted into the service of what was denominated the French and Indian war, which was declared by the mother Country, against France, on account of encroachments on her Colonies. They

had become of a serious character, and demanded redress. The burden of this war, as we have elsewhere remarked, devolved to an exhausting degree, on the Colonists. Having been commenced in 1755, it had progressed about two years, at the time of young Felton's enlistment. Those two years were marked with disasters and defeats. His services, covering two and a half years, extended to very near the termination of the war. In the year 1758, Pitt being placed at the head of the administration, the state of affairs began to exhibit a more flattering aspect. Young Felton's first services were, in assisting to drive a herd of cattle from Mass. over the Green Mountains, then a wilderness, to Lake Champlain. Soon after his enlistment, he received the appointment of Orderly Sergeant, which was a favorable indication of future promotion. The duties of this somewhat responsible office, were faithfully discharged till the close of his time of service. Those services were rendered, at a period of the war, full of important and stirring movements. Defeat had stimulated the British to more discreet and vigorous action. The enemy, too, began to be apprehensive, that there was danger of having his American possessions rested from him, which aroused him to correspondent efforts. A few years after Mr. Felton left the army, he became a resident for a short time, of Brookfield. In the year 1772, he removed from Brookfield to Sturbridge, where he resided during his revolutionary services.

Although he had been a fellow soldier in arms, with the troops of the mother Country, two and a half years, he was not the man to submit to oppression, even from that country. When the Revolutionary war broke out, he was one of the first to take up arms against her. On the 17th of June, he hastened to the theatre of action, in the memorable conflict of that day. He reached Bunker Hill in the midst of the engagement, and was near the brave Warren when he fell. It would be gratifying to us, and we presume to the reader, to give the names of some of the officers, under

whom he served, and a more detailed account than we are enabled to do, of his several terms of service. Those periods of service embraced nearly two years, and, from the facts we have obtained, some of the most perilous and arduous of the revolutionary struggle. He was with Gen. Sullivan, on Long Island, when that masterly retreat was made. He was in the several battles of Trenton, Brandywine and Monmouth; and probably some others. He was honored, at some period, with a commission of Lieutenant. Nearly five years of his life were spent in actual warfare, and at periods which required stern resolution, and great physical endurance.

It is not surprising he should have felt an honorable pride in the occasional performance of military duties, in civil life. After the close of the war, the first company of cavalry organized in the County of Worcester, was raised by Lieut. Felton, which elected him their Captain. How long he remained Captain of this company, we are not informed.

Ever firm and true to order, and the support of that government which he had fought to establish, he with his company, turned out to suppress the Shay's insurrection. He reached Springfield the next morning after the insurgents were routed by Gen. Shepard. Uniting with the forces gathered at the place, the insurgents were pursued till they were effectually dispersed. Of this insurrection, we have spoken more particularly in another place. It was the *first*, and the *last*, which has occurred in Massachusetts. This is a brief sketch of Capt. Felton's military services. We are informed by our venerable friend, Dea. Phillips, who was well acquainted with Capt. Felton, that he possessed superior abilities, great energy and decision of character. Capt. Felton was extensively known in the walks of civil and social life, and highly esteemed and respected. Although the scene of the arduous labors of those venerated men, is constantly receding, gratitude is cherishing their memories. Here is to be found the soldier's priceless monu-



ment. Capt. Felton removed from Sturbridge to Brookfield, where he resided until Jan. 26, 1820, when he died at the age of nearly 81 years. We are indebted to highly respected friends for many of the important facts\* in this sketch.

### MR. CYRUS FAY.

Mr. Fay, a native of Sturbridge, deserves a record among her revolutionary soldiers. As in some other instances, we are unable to state definitely the period of his services. We believe he was one of the number of those who were in New York, in the year 1777, at that dark hour of the conflict, when the British had 24000 regular troops, in the vicinity of the city; and Washington, in the possession of the city, had a comparatively small force; and at that distressing hour too, when the Americans, overwhelmed with numbers, lost on Long Island one thousand of their brave men. A gleam of hope immediately succeeded the despondency. The retreat from Long Island, and the evacuation of New-York, were movements of unsurpassed military skill, and marked with a signal interposition of the Divine favor. The British, considering the rebels completely within their grasp, were not a little surprised, when the discovery was made, that they had escaped out of their hands. It was at this juncture, that the brave Capt. Hale, a young man of high promise and superior accomplishments, lost his life in a bold attempt to obtain important information in regard to the state of the enemy. He was arrested, and without the formality of a trial, condemned. His last memorable words, at the execution, were, that "he lamented that he had only one life to lose for his country." Some of Mr. Fay's services were performed in New-York, and thought to be at the period above mentioned. Mr. Fay died in 1837, aged 87. He

was an honest and an industrious man, and an exemplary christian.

Since writing the above, we have been informed that Mr. Fay's father was the first settler in that portion of the town. John and Cyrus, his sons, are the possessors of a portion of his estate, who are of the third generation. The estate, in their hands has been greatly improved in buildings, and in other respects.

#### CAPT. ADAM MARTIN.

Capt. Martin was a native of Sturbridge, and held the rank of Captain, in the war of the Revolution. He was the son of Aaron Martin, who was the first settler in that part of Globe Village where Maj. Samuel Fiske resided. The father was drowned in attempting to cross Quineboag River. His Lientenant was Seth Washburn of Leicester, the father of Ex. Gov. Washburn. The Company belonged to Col. Timothy Bigelow's Regiment. Col. Bigelow was reported to be an excellent officer. The writer remembers that Lient. Washburn was a firm, energetic and persevering man. As Capt. Martin is supposed to have been in the service, during most of the war, we regret that we are not in possession of facts to speak of him more in detail. He had two brothers, Aaron and Moses, who were in the Army about the same length of time. After the close of the war, although they started for home, at points quite remote from each other, they arrived in the middle of the town of Sturbridge within three hours of each other. Capt. Martin was the first settler of the tract of land, afterwards owned by Silas Marsh, and occupied by him for a long period. He removed soon after the close of the war, to the town of Salem, in the State of New-York, where he held the rank of Col. and was highly respected.

Capt. Martin was the father of Gen. Walter Martin, who purchased a township of new land, in the state of New-

York, on which he commenced the first settlement. He soon gathered around him settlers; some of whom were from Sturbridge. He built a church, at his own expense, and, in various other ways, encouraged the growth and prosperity of the town. He was distinguished for enterprise, benevolence, and energy of character. The town bears the name of Martinsburgh, in honor of its first settler and benefactor.

#### DR. ABRAHAM ALLEN.

Dr. Allen a son of Jacob Allen of Sturbridge, at the age of 14 or 15, enlisted into service, near the close of the war. He performed the duty of fifer. Then a very small lad, he manifested that resolute and persevering trait of character which marked his course through life. With some aid from his father, he prepared himself for the practice of medicine and surgery, and commenced his professional career in the town of Salem, in the State of New-York. Soon after he commenced practise, a dispute arose between him and the other physicians of the vicinity, in regard to the disease of a child. Allen contended that it was in the head, which the other physicians would not admit. After the death of the child, Allen requested a post mortem examination, to which the friends would not consent. After its burial, Allen went alone, in the night, disinterred the corpse, severed the head from it, and made an examination in the presence of his opponents, and convinced them that he was correct in his opinion. The consequence was, a prosecution against Allen, a very exciting trial and conviction. Chief Justice Kent presided. Although convicted, this bold transaction prepared the way for his extensive practice and future celebrity. The Chief Justice (as Allen observed,) would afterwards humorously allude to this event in conversation with him. He possessed extraordinary skill in determining the nature of the disease. A striking instance of his skill,

in this particular, occurred in Sturbridge, in the case of Mr. Buckminster Wight, which is well remembered. As a physician, and surgeon, he had few superiors. He died at the age of eighty, in the full possession of his mental powers.

AMOS BOYDEN was in the service the latter part of the war.

JUSTUS BOYDEN, a brother at the same time.

It is supposed their period of service was about one year. They returned home together, after hostilities had ceased.

A son of Peter Morse, was in the army. His services were during the latter part of the war.

JOSEPH MILLS was in the service during that period of the war.

SYRIEL LEECH was in the service about six months. He was notified to leave home at a moments warning. A venerable friend, then a mere lad, was present, and witnessed the parting scene. The knap-sack was replenished with a loaf of wheat bread and other eatables. We notice many trivial incidents, as illustrating the trials, and state of feeling in many a home during that protracted conflict.

MR. JOHN DUNTON was in the Revolutionary war. The period of his services we have not been able to ascertain.

MR. WELCH was also in the army. We have not been able to ascertain how long.

PHINEAS WALKER, a son of Nathaniel, the original settler, was in the French war when quite young. A grandson informs us that he has frequently heard his grandfather relate his journey through the woods to Ticonderoga and Crown-point. He must have been in the Revolutionary war most of the time, for he was called out, not less than thirteen different periods. He advanced \$1000 to the Government, without any expectation of receiving any part of it back, as, in fact, he never did. Such sacrifices manifest the unflinching spirit of the man, and of the times. Mr. Walker was the owner of a large farm, which

he carried on, and also carried on black-smithing extensively. Notwithstanding his pecuniary sacrifices to his country, he acquired a very large estate, for those days, which he distributed among his children. He was an intelligent, strong-minded man, of most reliable character. Amongst his grandchildren, are the Rev. Charles Walker, D. D. of Pittsford, Vt. Rev. Alden Walker, of Rutland, Vt. and the Hon. Amasa and Freeman Walker, of North Brookfield. It is worthy of notice, that here were three brothers, Josiah, Nathaniel, and Phineas, in the French war, and Nathaniel, Phineas, and Asa, in the Revolutionary war.

#### LIEUT. NATHANIEL WALKER.

As. Mr. Walker was one of those men who effected important results, at the North, in 1777, a sketch of the operations in that quarter may not be out of place, in this work. In that year, Gen. Burgoyne appeared with an army of eight thousand regulars, two thousand Canadians, one thousand Indians, and a formidable train of artillery. In its early progress, no small degree of alarm pervaded the country. The commander of these forces issued a gasconading manifesto, replete with denunciations against the Americans, threatening them with vengeance, if they persisted in their wicked rebellion. It evinced very limited views of the character of the rebels, or of human nature. It was very far from having the intended effect. Gen. Gates' reply, presented a striking contrast. It breathed a tone of calmness, firmness, and decision. The state of our affairs, at this juncture, was by no means cheering. It was characterized by a series of defeats at the South and North. These sad results, however, did not produce despondency. The march of Burgoyne did not, for a while, tend to counteract the prevailing discouragement. He immediately took possession of Ticonderoga and Fort Independence. Soon after the surrender of these forts, the Americans lost two

hundred men, killed, about the same number taken prisoners, and six hundred in the woods perished of wounds and other causes. In July, 1777, Gen. Scuyler, in an engagement of three hours, was forced to retreat with no inconsiderable loss of men. Thus far success attended the movements of Burgoyne. His course marked with the atrocities of savage warfare, spread with rapidity, and infused indignation and fresh zeal into the Americans. Troops, especially from New-England, rushed forward to the seat of the war. The sanguinary course of Burgoyne was first arrested at Bennington, where a body of American troops, principally the Green-mountain-boys, were stationed, under the command of Gen. Warner. The object of Burgoyne, in making an attack at that place, was to seize a quantity of American stores. For this purpose, Col. Baum was sent with a detachment. But before Baum's arrival, Gen. Stark was on the ground with a reinforcement of one thousand men from New-Hampshire. Baum finding himself in a critical condition, sent to Burgoyne for a reinforcement. Col. Breyman was dispatched to his relief. Before Breyman's arrival, an engagement took place, which resulted in a signal victory to the Americans. Baum was mortally wounded. Breyman, not hearing of the defeat, had advanced too far to retreat. His detachment met with a similar defeat. In these two engagements, the British lost from six to eight hundred men. The result inspired new energy into the Americans. But they were destined to another disaster before the signal triumph. A body of one thousand men was dispatched to extend relief at Fort Stanwich, besieged by the enemy. The British General being informed of this movement, sent a party of regulars, and a large number of Indians to lie in ambush in the woods. The stratagem succeeded. The Americans were surprised, and lost half of their number. This was another atrocity to arouse indignation. It was a fresh rallying stimulus. Armed at every point against Burgoyne, victory or death was now the

decisive resolve of the Americans. On the 19th day of Sept. the British army arrived at Stillwater. The battle commenced at three in the afternoon, and continued till after sun set. The whole force of the enemy was brought into the action, which was contested on both sides with the utmost determination and vigor. The loss, on the part of the enemy, as nearly as we can ascertain, was not much short of eight hundred men, and on our part much less. The result was decidedly in our favor, although the enemy retained the field. Our forces were constantly augmenting, and the enemy's diminishing. The Savages about this time, broke away from the unholy alliance. Burgoyne retreated to Saratoga. The decisive blow was then, in human probability, to be struck. The British were hemmed in on every side. The last battle was fought with desperation on the part of the enemy. Burgoyne led on the charge in person, and was in the hottest of the engagement. It was the last struggle of a falling enemy. He was able, after this engagement, to retreat to his camp, but his condition was hopeless. Guarded on every side by the Americans, and no prospect of relief, his provisions for his army were now limited to three days. It was reduced in number from eleven thousand to about four thousand and five hundred. Capitulation was his last resort. Although the conduct of the British northern army was in many respects revolting to humanity, especially the employment of savages, the terms were by no means rigorous. It was in the highest degree humiliating to a British army to ground their arms. To such an act it was compelled to submit. Gen. Gates' conduct, on the occasion, was marked with a high sense of honor and humanity. Wisdom and prudence were clearly manifested in his course, in the accomplishment of so triumphant a result. The victory was hailed with rapture throughout the country. It was the turning point in our destiny, and a bright omen of final triumph. We have taken pains to ascertain facts, in relation to this campaign,

and believe our sketch to be substantially correct. A remembrance of such events is due to our ancestors.

Mr. Walker held the rank of Lieutenant in the Revolutionary war. He was also in the battle at White Plains.

An incident of thrilling interest, frequently related by Mr. Walker, occurred during some period of his services, in the French war. He, with a party returning home, in the winter season, mistook the way in the wilderness. They wandered about day after day, till their provisions were exhausted. Reduced almost to starvation, they were compelled to subsist for a while, on the flesh of their dogs. Providentially they were saved from perishing with hunger.

Having devoted the prime of his life to the service of his Country, the remainder was filled up with usefulness, as a townsman, a citizen, and a christian.

As Lieut. Walker, and a number of others, belonging to Sturbridge, bore arms in what is called the French war, we invite the reader, passing over about a century of our history, to glance at our condition, at that period. He may well suppose the Colonies had a sufficient complication of difficulties to encounter, without the super-addition of the horrors of war. We do not purpose to go into details. From 1755 to 1763, the heaviest share of the burden of this protracted contest devolved upon the Colonies. It appears, at one juncture, a levy was made upon them of 9000 men. The marches and encampments were mostly in a trackless wilderness, and frequently during the rigors of winter. Disasters and discouragements attended the movements of the British forces during the former portion of this period. Braddock's defeat is well remembered. Another party of about twelve hundred men, under the command of Col. Ephraim Williams, of Deerfield, was attacked by a detachment lying in ambush. A great slaughter ensued. Col. Williams and a number of other officers, falling in the conflict. The campaign of 1756 proved a failure. Among



other unfortunate results, the fall of the Fort, at Oswego, was considered peculiarly so. The possession of the Fort by the enemy gave them the entire command of Lakes Ontario and Erie. The attack on the Fortress at Ticonderoga was ill-conducted, and peculiarly disastrous in its effects. The British abandoned the enterprise after a loss of about 2000 men, killed and wounded. All history illustrates the importance of having the right men at the head of public affairs. As soon as Lord Chatham became the ruling spirit, they presented a new and cheering aspect. Energy and forecast, soon characterised the military operations. Cheering hopes succeeded despondency. A series of successful operations were ultimately crowned with the memorable victory on the plains of Abraham. Wolf is justly entitled to imperishable fame as a general. The difficulties overcome in reaching the battle-ground, have few, if any parallel on record. No wonder that Montcalm was taken by surprise; for the event was probably as unexpected, as would have been the descent of an army from the upper regions.

Sixteen years of the period, between 1755 and 1783, the Colonists were compelled to submit to the hardships and devastations of war. The arts and blessings of peace were almost entirely suspended during that period. No improvements in agriculture, none in mechanics. The instruction of the rising generation, literature and the sciences, were almost entirely neglected. We might add, as not the least of the evils of war, its pernicious influence on moral character. The French war, in one point of view, was beneficial to the Colonists. It better prepared them to assert their rights, and to meet those forces soon to be arrayed against them, with which they had long acted in concert. Washington, at the commencement of this war, at the age of twenty one, gave unequivocal indications of future greatness, should opportunities be presented, for a fuller developement of his extraordinary powers. Putnam was trained in this school

of hardy discipline, early exhibiting his sterling, and indomitable traits of character.

It undoubtedly laid the foundation, for the lasting reputation of many other officers, which was more fully matured, in the Revolutionary conflict. And we may add, as the most weighty consideration, it was a school for a noble host of soldiery, which might be gathered from every quarter, ready to take the front rank, in the contest. Although at the commencement of the French war, a period of only seventeen years had elapsed from the incorporation of the town, we have found the names of twelve individuals, who bore arms in this war.

MR. JAMES JOHNSON, the father of Mr. James Johnson, who is still living, enlisted, at the age of fifteen years, and served either five, or seven years. Being disabled by lameness, soon after he entered into the revolutionary army, his country was deprived of his services afterward in the field. Mr. Johnson has furnished the names of the Captains, under whom his father served, in the French war. They are as follows, viz:—Capt. Durnmple, of Uxbridge, in 1756, Capt. Spring, of Sudbury, in 1757, Capt. Burt, of Brimfield, in 1758, Capt. Baldwin, of Brookfield, in 1759, Capt. Field, of Western, in 1760, and subsequently, under Capt. Newell, of Leicester. Mr. Johnson selected for a farm, a tract of unbroken forest, which he subdued to purposes of husbandry, and on which he resided till his death. He was a large man, very erect, and of great muscular power.

James Johnson, senior, and Comfort Johnson, were brothers.

MR. ELEAZER HOWARD, the father of Dr. Howard, whose character we have sketched, bore arms in the French war. Mr. Johnson is of the opinion, that Mr. Howard was in this war, most of the time, during its continuance. He too, was one of the early settlers of Sturbridge, and was a respectable man, and a useful townsman. He resided in the southern part of the town. Since writing the above,

we have been informed, Mr. Howard bore arms for a considerable length of time in the Revolutionary war. He was in the several engagements which terminated in the surrender of Burgoyne.

### GEN. TIMOTHY NEWELL.

Gen. Newell was born at Needham, in 1742. He removed in early life to Sturbridge, where he followed the trade of a wheel-wright during a number of years. Afterwards he was extensively concerned in agricultural and mercantile business. Decidedly in favor of the independence of America, he embarked with energy in the struggle, to effect it. In 1774, the town records show that Capt. Newell, Capt. Crafts, and Capt. Parker, devoted much of their time to the discipline of their companies. The Rev. Mr. Paine, on an appointed occasion, in a powerful and animated address, urged upon them the necessity of preparation for the approaching conflict. A determined state of feeling is clearly indicated by such movements. Gen. Newell entered the service as Brigade Major. How long he was in the army, we have no records to ascertain, but whatever his position, his heart and hands were in the work. It was characteristic of the man not to shrink from any undertaking, which duty prompted him to prosecute. His mind was stored with an ample fund of varied information, in relation to the revolution, and he was always in readiness, to entertain and edify the hearer. He was Major General of the Militia, at a period when that rank was held in marked distinction. He possessed powers equal to the discharge of high and responsible trusts, and when brought into action, never fell below expectation. He was the last man that could be circumvented, or entrapped by any artful project. He deserves notice, in connection with the Shay's insurrection. This was one of the most thrilling periods in the history of the Commonwealth, and a test of firmness of character, and cor-

rect principles, in favor of law and government. It is beyond a doubt, there were causes for discontent, and equally so, for stern self-denial. The war had exhausted the resources of the country, involved a vast multitude in debt, and left little else besides the naked soil. Designing and ambitious men were not wanting to inflame the public mind. They succeeded in arousing it to an alarming pitch. A resort to arms was the painful result. Neighbor was arrayed against neighbor, and the Commonwealth, for a while, exhibited not a faint resemblance of the horrors of a civil war. Courts of Justice were besieged with armed soldiery, and forbidden to execute the laws. There is no doubt that there was great indiscretion, in very many instances, in attempting to enforce the payment of debts, where there was nothing to meet them, and against men too, who had exhausted their means, in defence of their country. Taxes likewise were extremely onerous. These were some of the causes of complaint which prepared the way for violent resistance. Reason had lost its ascendancy. The opposition did not look upon the state of things, as a common calamity, in which all were involved. They had fought and bled together, and had obtained the object of their joint trials and sacrifices. Sacrifices were still to be made. It was the duty of the opposition to co-operate in measures to effect, if possible, a better state of things. They ought to have foreseen that its accomplishment must be gradual. This, in short, was a juncture, in this Commonwealth, as we have observed, which brought to a severe test, law, order, and republican principles. Gen. Newell had no hesitancy as to the path of duty. He was called upon to take the field as Major General, to quell the insurrection. His conduct throughout this anxious crisis, was firm and discreet, and evinced his fitness for the responsible position he occupied. Gen. Lincoln was the first in command, but, for some reasons not remembered, Gen. Lincoln's duties devolved on Gen. Newell. Gen. Shepard's conduct was also marked with

great prudence and skill. The result was, a signal triumph of law and order over rashness and folly.

Mr. Job Hamant Jr. and Obed Walker, volunteered in behalf of government. Mr. Hamant related one of the movements of the contending forces. Shays made a lodgment at Springfield. Soon learning that the government troops were approaching that place, he decamped in a cold stormy night, for Petersham. The snow was deep, and the march tedious. After reaching Petersham, greatly fatigued, they were endeavoring to take some refreshment and repose; but the government troops, making no delay at Springfield, were upon the heels of Shays, and surprised him before he had much time to rest. He and his men were thrown into great confusion, and fled in every direction. This incident shows that the Insurgents did not abound in courage.

Probably there never was an insurrection which threatened such disastrous consequences, suppressed with so much skill, so little shedding of blood, and so effectually. It was the first, and it is to be hoped, the last in this Commonwealth.

Gen. Newell discharged with ability the duties of senator, and member of the Governor's council.

He was, what is commonly denominated, a self-taught man. Possessing a mind fitted for extensive business and intellectual acquisitions, he spared no pains to improve it. Few men have accomplished so much. Every thing important in relation to the Revolution was at his command, and was a theme of instructive and cheering interest to those who listened to his conversation. As the strength of our republican government had been pretty thoroughly tested, he was decided in the belief, that it would be perpetuated. An advocate for improvement, he saw in prospect great changes in this respect. Although an admirer of Washington, he belonged to the Jeffersonian school in politics. He felt with Washington, that the Union should be

cherished, and that nothing, for a moment, should be tolerated, which would tend to endanger it. He observed, "it affords me great satisfaction to leave my children under such a government as ours." He well knew what it had cost. He was, in person, tall, rather slender, and possessed a striking countenance, which could not fail to command respect. His whole appearance exhibited, at once, a man of no common firmness and decision of character. His oldest daughter married Thomas Upham, Esq. a gentleman of high respectability, and of a distinguished family. Mr. Upham, for many years, was largely concerned in mercantile business, in Sturbridge, and several times represented the town in the General Court. Another daughter married Dr. Ephraim Allen, a graduate of Harvard. Another married Dr. Abraham Allen, whose character is briefly sketched in this work. Another daughter married Samuel Allen, Esq. of Worcester, long well known as County Treasurer, a gentleman of unrivalled punctuality and method, not only in his official trusts, but in all the concerns of life. Mr. Allen sustained the purest character. Another married John Kennedy, a merchant, in the State of New-York. Another, Mr. Reynolds, who was a printer. The youngest daughter married Mr. Savage, who was chief Justice of the Supreme Court, of the State of New-York. Another, married the Rev. Dr. Ely of Monson, well known as a distinguished divine. The character and accomplishments of these eight daughters, may be inferred from the standing of the men with whom they were connected. Gen. Newell buried his only son at the age of 20, soon after he had received the honors of Harvard University. He belonged to a class, distinguished for eminent men. He was an excellent scholar, and of great promise. With so slender health, and such unremitted mental exercise, it is rather extraordinary that Gen. Newell should have reached the age of 76. His protracted life must be ascribed, in a great degree, to his temperate habits, and regularity of diet. He died Feb. 5th, 1819.

OBED WALKER.—Mr. Walker was in the Revolutionary war, about six months, and at West-Point, when the defection of Arnold occurred. Mr. Joshua Hyde was there at the same time. As we have heard Mr. Walker speak more particularly of that event than any other individual, we shall narrate some facts in relation to it. The thrilling developement that Arnold had fled, spread rapidly among the troops, and produced a very deep sensation. The astonished enquiry was made, what does this mean! Very soon, Washington was on the ground. He moved with rapidity in examining the state of things. On examination of the guns, he found they were spiked. Other discoveries developed more and more the nefarious plot. He ordered every thing to be done which the emergency demanded. The actors and the treason soon came to light. It was concerted by Arnold and Maj. Andre, on the bank of the Hudson, under the cover of night. Immediately after the plot was concerted, Andre was arrested by three militia men, with the fatal papers in his possession. He so managed as to give notice of his detention to Arnold, that he might have an opportunity to flee. All this very soon reached the ears of Washington, whose unexpected return from Rhode-Island, seemed to be a striking interposition of Divine Providence. Andre was brought to trial before a tribunal in every respect competent to investigate and pass judgment upon a transaction full of momentous consequences. Gen. Greene was at the head of this tribunal. Andre's bearing was elevated, and peculiarly calculated to enlist sympathy. He frankly acknowledged the facts, but denied the imputation of a spy. He alleged that he was within the American lines, contrary to his knowledge, or intention; that he acted as an agent in agreeing to the proposals of Arnold, and that all this was compatible with the rules of honorable warfare. His judges after a long and patient hearing, arrived at the conclusion, that he was a spy, and passed sentence upon him as such. Every effort was made

by the British, that human ingenuity could devise, to avert the doom of Andre. He was respected, and loved almost to adoration. He promised high and extensive usefulness. Washington, after weighing the subject in all its momentous bearings, arrived at the conclusion that he ought not to interpose in attempting to arrest the execution of the sentence. We cannot see any valid reason why Andre's request should not have been granted, as to the mode of his execution. He deemed it more honorable to be shot, than to be hung. The English historian, uniformly, excepting in the case of Andre, speaks in high terms of Washington. There is evidently an intention, in some instances to contrast his conduct with that of their own commanders, that his superiority may more strikingly appear. His language, in regard to Andre, is, "future ages will regard the death of Andre as a dark spot in the bright character of the American General." We cannot believe this prediction has been, or will be so fulfilled, in view of an impartial world. Andre had been tried and condemned by a competent tribunal. Washington discovered no sufficient reason why he should attempt to arrest the execution of the sentence. It is to be considered that this was a very critical period in the revolutionary conflict. There had been, on the part of the Americans, almost unparalleled privations and perils. The resources of the country were greatly exhausted. Although the spirit of liberty had not abated, discontent would break out under such accumulated sufferings. This was a juncture when the enemy might well suppose that they might strike a blow which would be fatal. The project, if carried into effect, would have been tremendous in its consequences. It contemplated the possession of the most important post of the Americans, the capture of a great portion of her artillery, magazines and stores, and the destruction, or surrender of her best officers, and all the Northern Army. Andre was one of the projectors of this mighty scheme, involving the sacrifice of such a fearful amount of life and proper-



ty. He knew, at the same time, that he was making such a detestible bargain with a traitor, as might well be compared to the conspiracy of Catiline. No exigency or circumstances can excuse, or palliate, either party, in treachery, especially, treachery of so odious a character. Even a Roman Senate, not favored with the light of christianity, did not countenance treacherous projects for the destruction of the life, or property of their enemies. Although the plot involved consequences so enormous and appalling ; Andre was an object of universal interest and sympathy. But those men, who held in their hands the destiny of America, must be governed, in their high and solemn responsibility, by considerations of higher moment than sympathy. An example must speak, in notes, not to be misunderstood.

West Point exhibits to the observer the most beautiful and sublime scenery. The parade ground is a spacious area, admirably adapted to its present use. The buildings are in fine style, and the grounds about them, laid in the best taste, ornamented with trees, and other natural and artificial beauties. Here the visitor is richly rewarded in viewing military evolutions, and the various attractions around him. From the parade ground your course is an abrupt ascent, about a mile, to Fort Putnam, situated on the highest elevation. Here are the ruins of the old Fort. It revives the most thrilling reminiscences. Here was Washington, and Greene, and Putnam, and Lafayette. Here was that brave, patriotic, self-denying band of soldiers, gathered from every portion of the Country. Here too was Arnold, the traitor. The view around you is almost unsurpassed in beauty and grandeur, and admirably in keeping with the thoughts which it awakens. The memorable actors and memorable events, which were here witnessed more than three quarters of a century ago, seem but yesterday. On these great thoroughfares spread before you, what an astonishing and cheering change is now witnessed !

Mr. Walker was industrious, and of economical habits; plain in dress and manners, and honest and frank in his intercourse with others. He was a son of Lieut. Nathaniel Walker, who we have elsewhere stated, was in the French and Revolutionary wars. Obed Walker died March 9th, 1850, aged 88.

**ITHAMAR MERRIFIELD.**—Mr. Merrifield drew a full pension, consequently he must have been in active service during a great portion of the revolutionary conflict. We have often heard him dwell upon the events of that period with deep interest. He was in a number of engagements. There is no doubt he was a brave soldier, and would not flinch to storm a fort or meet an enemy in any form. Short in stature, of a dark complexion, he possessed a constitution fitted to endure great hardship. He was not at all particular as to the appearance of his habitation or furniture, or as to his dress, or what he ate or drank, or how, or where he slept. He was very economical in all his habits, but a little inclined occasionally to be exhilarated by artificial expedients. Notwithstanding his apparent disregard of any degree of refinement, he possessed tender and kind feelings, and was ever ready to perform acts of kindness.

Ithamar Merrifield was one of the men who encountered the perils and hardships incident to the achievement of our independence. He lived to the advanced age of 81.

**MR. SILAS DUNTON.**—The writer was well acquainted with Silas Dunton, and had frequent conversations with him in relation to his services as a soldier of the Revolution. He drew about half pay as a pensioner. He possessed a very firm constitution, and lived to the age of 80. He was an industrious and an honest man. He was the father of Dea. Zenas Dunton, well known as one of the best of men, not only as a burning light in the church, but in all the relations of life. We remember well his filial attention to the father, and his unremitted care and watchfulness over him in his last distressing sickness. The father deserves re-

membrance as a veteran of the Revolution, and the son as a bright model for imitation. Silas Dunton died in 1810, in the 80th year of his age.

ABEL MASON, Esq.—Mr. Mason was one of the strong men of the Revolution. We could cheerfully give a more protracted sketch of his character than is in agreement with our plan. We have not the evidence of showing how long, or where his revolutionary services were exerted. We believe he bore a part in that stirring campaign, which resulted in the surrender of Burgoyne. He held the command of Captain. Those under him, always spoke of him in terms of love and high respect. Wherever Capt. Mason led the way, all would cheerfully follow. He was, in every respect, the man for *those* times, and for all other times. He was extensively engaged as a farmer during life, and always exerted a good influence around him. Gen. Brooks, when elevated to the executive chair, remembered his old companion in arms, and, unsolicited by any one, sent Capt. Mason a commission of Justice of the peace. A consistent and decided christian character, crowned his other sterling virtues. Were such qualifications essential recommendations for public trusts, at the present day, public affairs would present a very different aspect. With plain, unassuming, and agreeable manners, were united firmness, and a sound judgment. Capt. Mason was in person tall, of a light complexion, not fleshy, muscular, and well proportioned. In the investigation of the characters of the men of the Revolutionary war, there will appear a peculiar fitness for the exigency of the times.

Since writing the above, a grandson has favored us with some interesting facts. Capt. Mason was in the French war, one campaign, and in the war of the Revolution, about two years. We have alluded in another place, to the universal spirit of resistance which was excited by the movements of Burgoyne. Capt. Mason, with his company, reached the battle ground immediately after the surrender.

His father was one of the first settlers of the town. The Legislature required, before an act of incorporation would be granted, the erection of a certain number of dwelling-houses. The father of Capt. Mason built one, which remained until a few years since. Truly a venerable relic. The estate of the original proprietor, has descended in a direct line, to the fourth generation, and in the name of Mason. Mr. Oliver Mason, the present proprietor, holds it by a sure and very honorable title. Capt. Mason died at the age of 94.

**DENNISON WHEELLOCK.**—Mr. Wheelock drew a pension for three or four several periods of revolutionary service. He had a brother, Ralph, who was also in the service. How long Ralph was in the service, we have not been able to ascertain. He also drew a pension. They were sons of Capt. Ralph Wheelock, who was one of the early settlers in Sturbridge. More than forty years ago, we remember Capt. Wheelock, then of great age, possessing the physical and mental vigor of a man, in middle life. His mind was stored with many interesting facts in relation to the early settlement of the town. We remember he spoke of the constancy of attendance on public worship, and that neither weather nor distance was an insuperable obstacle. Capt. Wheelock married a daughter of Mr. James Dennison, the first settler of that part of the town where Capt. Wheelock resided.

**MAJ. ASA COBURN.**—Maj. Coburn, another son of Sturbridge, embarked heart and hand in the revolutionary movements. Possessing energy of character, and the requisite qualifications for an officer, he no doubt distinguished himself as such. Holding the rank of Captain when he entered the service, he was promoted to that of Major. We regret our limited information in regard to particulars of his military career. We should be glad to notice some of the thrilling scenes in which he must have been an actor. Those who could furnish the desired facts have passed to their rest. A very aged townsman informs the writer, that

Maj. Coburn was one of the early promoters of the revolutionary movements. He recollects when he entered the army, and that after he had been for a considerable period in active service, he took his son, Phineas, into the army. He states further, that Maj. Coburn was in the army most of the time during the war, and Phineas, about three years. We thus see he was not an indifferent co-worker in the good cause. The army furnished many instances of father and son in its ranks. They are a striking manifestation of the spirit of the times, and, an unflinching determination to accomplish the great end in view. Maj. Coburn removed into the State of Ohio, at what period of time, we are not informed.

**DR. EBENEZER PHILLIPS.**—Dr. Phillips, a brother of Dea. John Phillips, was born in Sturbridge, on the old paternal homestead, which Dea. Phillips still occupies. The Doctor was a soldier of the Revolution. His services embraced four distinct periods. He, like many others, must have been a mere lad at that time. He was a skilful physician, and a very worthy man. His professional business was not confined to Charlton, which was his residence, but was sought in the adjacent towns. In the department of obstetrics, he possessed superior skill, and was extensively employed in cases of this sort. In many instances where the skill of others was baffled, he extended relief. He received a pension for several years.

**BENJAMIN HUMPHREY.**—Mr. Humphrey bore arms, most of the time, during the war. He was reputed to be a good soldier. Being limited as to his means of a livelihood, his pension was a grateful relief, in the last years of his life. Although Mr. Humphrey was a poor man, he possessed the valuable reputation of having devoted his early manhood to his country. He lived to an advanced age. Since writing the above, we are informed that Mr. Humphrey was a native of Brookfield, and probably entered the service while a

resident of that town. If so, he settled in Sturbridge in early life, where he lived till his death.

**THOMAS YOUNG.**—We are not in possession of such facts as will enable us to give a particular account of Mr. Young's revolutionary services. Dea. Phillips recollects that Mr. Young resided in Sturbridge when he entered the army, and is of opinion that his military services were not of short duration.

**ABIJAH HYDE.**—Mr. Hyde belonged to Capt. Coburn's company, and was in the army two and a half years. He died in the service of his country, of the small pox, in Canada. He was a native of Sturbridge, and brother of Joshua Hyde.

**HENRY CLARK** was in the service, the same length of time, two and a half years. He was also in Capt. Coburn's company, and died in Canada of the small pox.

**LEMUEL HYDE** was in the army. How long, we have not been able to ascertain.

**CAPT. CLARK**, as we are informed by Dea. Phillips, was in the army one campaign.

**TIMOTHY SMITH** was in the army eight months, and perhaps longer.

**MOSES SMITH** was in the service about three years. As he must have encountered many perils and hardships during so long a period, it would be gratifying, if possessed of facts, to speak of him more particularly.

**NATHAN SMITH** was in the army at several different periods. When and where, we are unable to state.

**JOSIAH PARTRIDGE** was in the service. How long, we are unable to state.

**JOHN GOSS** was in the service eight months or more.

**STEPHEN DRAPER** was in the French war four or five years. The writer recollects very well of having had several conversations with Mr. Draper in relation to his military services. He was then an old man, exhibiting the marks of a veteran, and of one who would not shrink from a

conflict, in the battle field. His courage had more than once been tested by actual experiment. He was one of the number who came in early life from Medfield to this town. He was the father of Jacob and George Draper. Mr. Draper's wife was a sister of Mrs. David Wight, to whom we have particularly alluded in this work.

LIEUT. NATHANIEL WALKER was for a considerable length of time in the French war. We have spoken of him in another place.

JOSIAH WALKER, a brother of Nathaniel, was also a soldier in the French war. He was the father of Capt. Perez Walker.

ABEL MASON, Esq. was also in the French war, of whom we have spoken in another place.

PHINEAS WALKER, another brother, was in the French war.

THOMAS BOYDEN, who resided in the southerly part of the town, was a number of years in the French war, and probably a longer period in the Revolutionary war. We are informed by Dea. Elias Holbrook, that when a lad, he had often heard Eleazer Howard, his grandfather, and Mr. Boyden converse together in reference to their services in those wars. They used to talk over, and dwell particularly, on the battles, in which each had been engaged. Mr. Howard was a farmer, and the possessor of a handsome estate. Mr. Boyden was poor, and supported his family as a day laborer. We have spoken of Mr. Howard in another place. He was one of the original settlers in the southerly part of the town.

GEORGE WATKINS, mentioned in another place as one of the first settlers, bore arms in the French war. The duration of his services we are unable to state.

ASAHEL CLARK was in the French war.

Also ELIJAH CARPENTER.

Also BENJAMIN FELTON.

Also THOMAS BOYDEN, and ELEAZER HOWARD.

ICHABOD ROBBINS was in the Revolutionary war about three years. So long a period, thus devoted to the service of his country, demands a more particular narration than we are able to give.

ELI ROBBINS, a brother of Ichabod, was also in the service. How long, we cannot state.

BENJAMIN DIX was a while in the army.

SAMUEL MORSE, the father of Capt. Lyman Morse, was in the revolutionary service, at least three months, in the state of New-Jersey. Lyman succeeded to a portion of the real estate where his father settled.

ISAAC UPHAM was one of the minute men. In the midst of his haying, he was warned to march at a minute's notice. He quit his scythe, buckled on his armor, and was instantly off for the battle-field. That thrilling period was marked with many such instances. His neighbors kindly volunteered their services, in finishing his haying, and in harvesting his grain.

JONATHAN UPHAM was in the service at several different periods. The writer aided him in obtaining a pension. He resided during many years in the southern part of the town. He was an honest and worthy man. He, like many others, who had served their country faithfully, was dependent on the daily labor of his hands for a frugal subsistence.

A colored man, who lived with Capt. Timothy Parker, was in the army during the last of the war, and died in the service. He was commonly called PRIMUS.

WILLIAM SIMPSON was a while in the Revolutionary war. He resided in that part of Sturbridge, now called Southbridge.

BENJAMIN HOBBS was in humble circumstances, an industrious and hard laboring man. He served during the Revolutionary war, and the war of 1812. Frequently has he related to the writer some of the thrilling events of his life, especially his feeling and conduct in battles. He ob-



served that on the near approach of the enemy, and the preparations for the engagement, he could not avoid some trepidation. But as soon as he was warmly engaged, all such feelings vanished, and he thought of nothing but to discharge his duty to the utmost of his ability. The martial music, the volleys of musketry, the roaring of cannon, the flying balls, sometimes piercing his clothes, the dead, the dying around him, all served to nerve him more fiercely for the conflict. In the rage of the battle, and rapidity of the movements, he was compelled frequently to rush over those who had fallen, without a moments time to afford them relief. But when the struggle was over, and its heart-rending effects spread out before him, how changed were his emotions! Officers, soldiers, horses, and all the instruments of death, almost literally covered the battle ground! He remarked, the poor brave fellows lay there steeped in blood, and some of them my comrades! You cannot think how I felt. The sad work was then to be performed as quickly as possible, of preparing and consigning them to their rude graves. Not to dwell any longer on this revolting scene, Mr. Hobbs was familiar with the names and appearance of a great portion of the officers of the Revolution. Washington he saw daily, and not unfrequently lady Washington. The soldiers would humorously remark, Lady Washington is to inspect us to day with the General, our tents must be neat, every thing in good order, and we must show ourselves off to the best advantage. This circumstance is noticed as evidence of the influence of that lady, and the respect in which she was held. Mr. Hobbs, in person, was thick, strong, athletic, and capable of enduring great and protracted hardship. This sketch is cheerfully made of him as a brave soldier, who served his country long and faithfully. No monument marks the spot where sleep his ashes. This is certainly unwarrantable neglect. Since the above was written, we have been informed that he was a native of Charlton, and while residing

there, enlisted into the service. He married in Sturbridge, and settled in the latter town immediately after the close of the war.

MARK STACY was in the service eight months at Roxbury.

SILAS MARSH.—Mr. Marsh was one of the strong men of the Revolution, fitted to sustain, as well as any man, those long and severe hardships to which he was subjected as a soldier. His life was periled in a number of engagements. The writer inquired of him, when viewing the evolutions of the militia assembled for muster, whether they did not bring to his mind revolutionary scenes. He observed, "very vividly. We were drilling in that way almost daily, when not in actual service. We were then preparing to meet the enemy marching over the land with strong armed forces. A great change has taken place since that day. Those young men are not now expecting every day, and perhaps every hour, to be summoned into the midst of flying balls, where one half of them might be cut down in a few hours. I hope they never may be brought into such trials. Our Independence was obtained, at the expense of many a hard fought battle, and an untold amount of anxieties and hardships. Men do not appear to put a just estimate on the blessings which have resulted from it."

Mr. Marsh was a hard laboring man. Although exemplary in his habits, and deportment, he felt the need of something more than a moral life. This was manifested in a deep interest in religion, some eight or ten years before his death. The veteran of the Revolution, united with a large number, in the morning of life, in making a public profession of his faith. He observed, "I can look back and see the hand of Providence, in my hair's breadth escapes." He was confined to his bed, by a paralytic shock, for some two years, before his death. The confinement was borne with christian resignation.

He died on the third day of June, 1836, in the 89th year of his age.

**BENJAMIN HYDE**, the father of Joshua Hyde, bore arms in the French war, and also in the war of the Revolution. We should be glad to state his services more in detail, had we the desired information. His sons, John and Othniel, were in the service about eight months. Of Joshua we have spoken particularly. Here is another instance of the father and three sons taking the field together in the struggle for independence. It is a manifestation of a patriotic spirit, of a high order. Benjamin Hyde senior, had twelve children, and, as we are informed, most of them lived to advanced life.

**DEA. JOHN PHILLIPS** was in the war of the Revolution about seven weeks. He is the only survivor (1855,) in Sturbridge and Southbridge, of those men who were in the service.

**JOSHUA HYDE.**—Mr. Hyde was born in Sturbridge, and was the son of Benjamin Hyde, who had a large family. We shall name his sons who were in the Revolutionary war. He was in the service during the most critical period of the Revolutionary contest. He was one of the corps commanded by Gen. Sullivan, who gained such distinguished credit in his masterly retreat in Rhode-Island, August 1778. Gifted with a very retentive memory, it may not be out of place to sketch some important particulars related by him with lively interest, and which are in accordance with historic facts. The retreat was under the cover of night, conducted with the utmost caution and stillness, and effected by the break of day. This adroit movement was no less memorable than a signal victory. The object of Sullivan's expedition was to expel the British from Rhode-Island. The expected co-operation of the French troops failed. In consequence of this failure, it would have been rashness in the extreme, for Sullivan to have hazarded an engagement. Finding themselves in this perilous

condition, many of Sullivan's troops deserted. Desertion, of this sort, of inexperienced troops, was one of the severe trials to be encountered. The subject of our sketch was not composed of such materials. This was the first attempt at co-operation with French troops. It did not at the commencement, promise very flattering results. Their temperament, habits and mode of discipline, were totally uncongenial with those of the Americans. The utmost prudence was requisite to harmonize such discordant materials. The exertions of Washington, with able coadjutors, were effectual in allaying the spirit of discontent. The interposition of France in our behalf, evidently exasperated the British. Their conduct was afterwards marked with cruelties, and stratagems totally inconsistent with civilized warfare. One or two instances are cited, in confirmation of this remark. A regiment of light horse, at Old Tapan, on the North River, was surprised, and almost entirely cut off. Another much larger body of troops under the command of Pulaski, was slaughtered, with the exception of a small remnant, under much more aggravating circumstances. Such cruelties had the effect of uniting more firmly the Americans, and of firing them with a more unyielding spirit of resistance. These instances are not cited to revive feelings of resentment, but to exhibit the influence of the passions, stimulated by hostility. Mr. Hyde was at West-Point, at the defection of Arnold. Our remarks on that event, are in connection with the sketch of Obed Walker.

The hardships, incident to this period of Mr. Hyde's life, without doubt, gave him more vigor of character, and firmness of physical constitution, and better prepared him for the active services of a long life. Not favored with the advantages of even a common education, he cheerfully bestowed them upon his children, and as cheerfully aided in the education of the rising generation, and also in the support of religious worship. His attendance at church on the Sabbath, was uniform. He expressed to the writer his firm

belief in the necessity of religion. He was plain in his manners, economical in his habits, and judicious in his calculations. He read very little ; but a good share of common sense, and keen observation, enabled him to judge, with a good degree of accuracy, of public men and measures.

He left for his widow and children, a very handsome estate, which was the fruit of his own industry and perseverance. He died Sept. 8th, 1838, aged 77.

Benjamin D. Hyde, Esq. who has for many years been in the practice of law, is a son of Joshua Hyde.

The Hon. Emery Washburn has allowed us to copy his sketch of the character of Col. Crafts, from his valuable and interesting history of Leicester Academy.

"COL. EBENEZER CRAFTS was born in Pomfret, Conn. September 3d, 1740, and was graduated at Yale College, 1759. Soon after this, he engaged in mercantile business in his native town. At the age of twenty two, he married Mehitable Chandler, and, soon after, moved to Sturbridge, where he continued to pursue the same business in which he had been engaged, and by attention and assiduity, acquired thereby a large estate. At the commencement of hostilities, he held the command of a company of cavalry, which he had raised and organized, and joined the Army with it at Cambridge, in 1775. He remained in the service till the British troops evacuated Boston, when he returned to Sturbridge, and was soon after elected the Col. of a regiment of Cavalry, which office he held till his removal from the County. At the time of the insurrection, known as the "Shay's Rebellion," he marched with a body of one hundred men, under Gen. Lincoln, in the winter of 1786 and 1787, into the western counties, where he rendered prompt and essential service in suppressing that alarming but ill judged outbreak. With the enlarged and patriotic views of Col. Crafts, the importance of educating the rising generation early attracted his attention. The people were about to assume the solemn trust of self-gov-

ernment, and, to do this with success, they should be able to understand and appreciate the wants and duties of a free people.

The condition of the common Schools was depressed ; the number of public institutions for education was few ; and the idea of establishing such an institution in this country, occupied his thoughts for some time before any measures were taken to accomplish it. He, at first, conceived the plan of founding an academy in the pleasant village where he resided. But the opportunity that presented, as has been already stated, for procuring a suitable building in Leicester, and the co-operation of Col. Davis in the scheme, induced him to direct his efforts to its establishment in that place, with the zeal and success which I have already had occasion to notice. By his efforts in this, and other benevolent enterprises, and that general revulsion of business, which after the close of the war, proved so disastrous to New-England, he became so much embarrassed in his affairs, that he was induced to sell his estates here, and remove to Vermont, where he, in company with Gen. Newell, of Sturbridge, had purchased a township of land, a few years previous. This took place in the winter of 1790, and 1791, and the town, out of respect to its founder, took the name of Craftsbury. In 1792, he resigned his place as a trustee of the Academy, up to which time he cherished and promoted its interests, and shared in its early struggles, against the same difficulties, which were embarrassing his own affairs. In 1786, Col. Crafts was honored with the degree of A. M. from Harvard University.

It is not easy for the present generation to understand, how new and unbroken was the wilderness into which Col. Crafts removed with his family. To the generation that was upon the stage a half century ago, it was familiarly known as the "new State," and, towards it, was the foot of the emigrant from the older counties in Massachusetts directed till that time. Scarce a town in that region, that

had not more or less of its early settlers from the County of Worcester, and Col. Crafts had already been preceded by Col. Davis at the time of his removal. At that time, there was no road opened for more than twenty miles from Craftsbury, and, it being winter, the females of his family were drawn that distance, upon hand sleds over the snow. Here he gathered around him a number of excellent families from Sturbridge and neighboring towns, and a little community was formed, of which he was the acknowledged head. For twenty years, he stood to it in the relation of a patriarch, a friend and counsellor, whose intelligence all understood, and whose friendship and fidelity all esteemed. His generous hospitality, his energy of character, his calm dignity, and his pure and christian life, acting, as they did, upon a well educated, sympathising community, exerted an influence, and stamped a character upon the people, and fortunes of the town he planted, which is plainly perceptible to this day. In this he found a ready and efficient auxiliary in his son, whom we have mentioned, and other members of his own immediate kindred. In this community he resided till his death, May 24th, 1810, at the age of 70, respected and beloved by a constantly widening circle of friends and acquaintance. The academy are in possession of an excellent likeness of this founder of the institution, from an original portrait formerly in the possession of his son, the late Hon. Samuel C. Crafts, in which it is not difficult to trace indications of that character that distinguished him in the middle and more active period of his life. He was a man of great energy and firmness, and, though liberal in his views and sentiments, he was inflexible in the maintenance of principle, and, with the opportunities he enjoyed, such a man would not fail to make his influence widely felt.

But it is chiefly of this influence, as connected with this institution, that it is proper to speak in this place. As class after class of hopeful and educated young men have gone

out from this academy to perform their parts in the various departments of life, they have unconsciously been his agents in disseminating principles, upon the maintenance of which depends the permanence and prosperity of the republic itself. And, in paying this brief and humble tribute to his memory, it is hoped that it may be regarded in the light of meet, though tardy justice to one who conceived and carried out the plan of founding the institution. His successor in the board of trustees was Gen. Timothy Newell."

Col. Crafts settled in the centre village of Sturbridge. The present hotel, which has for more than half a century been occupied as a public house, was built by him; and the majestic elms in front, were probably planted by his hand. Col. Crafts certainly deserves this record of remembrance by so able a hand.

CAPT. DAVID COREY was in the army seven weeks. He was a brother of Dr. Jacob Corey, senior. They were the sons of Jacob Corey, who resided about a mile northwesterly from the centre of the town, on the first Brookfield road. David became the proprietor of the real estate of the father, where he was born, and resided till his death. The father was one of the original settlers. Many of his descendants have settled in various sections of the country, and hold a respectable standing.

CAPT. JOHN BOYDEN.—Capt. Boyden was a revolutionary soldier. We have no data to determine the time of his continuance in the army, but the impression is, that his services were not of short duration. He came into Sturbridge, in early life, from Medfield. He was a highly respected citizen. He went out as Captain of a company, to suppress the Shays insurrection.

BENJAMIN WALKER was in the army about one year, and died in the service.

LIEUT. JOHN SALMON was for a considerable length of time in the service; whether in the capacity of an officer, or private, we have not been informed.



CALVIN MARSH was in the army a short time, and died in the service, at Roxbury.

JOSEPH SHAW was a revolutionary soldier. The time of his service was sufficient to enable him to draw a pension.

DANIEL PLIMPTON, a brother of John and Elias Plimpton, was in the army about one year.

JOSHUA GERROLD was in the army nine months. He was a brother of Capt. Gerrold, who resided in the southerly part of the town. Capt. Gerrold was probably in the service, but we have not been able to obtain positive information on this point.

NAHUM SMITH was in the Revolutionary war three years. The writer assisted Mr. Smith in procuring a pension according to the provisions of the first act, limiting the pension to those who were needy. Smith appeared before Chief Justice Parker to make oath to the declaration of his services. We notice this circumstance, because of the interest the Judge manifested in those men, who had thus served their country. He was gratified that provision was made for them, and thought that the bounty of the government should not be confined exclusively to the *needy*. Subsequent acts were in accordance with his views, then expressed. Mr. Smith was in a number of battles, and was subjected to peculiar hardships.

NATHAN FISKE enlisted into the service at the age of sixteen, near the close of the war, and from the best information we can obtain, was in actual service two several periods. The writer was well acquainted with Mr. Fiske. He was well known to be a very capable man. Habits of indulgence, more common in his day, than at present, checked his usefulness, for a number of years. He had an excellent farm, on Fiske Hill, and was one of the noted brotherhood, of that name.

JOSHUA FISKE, a brother of Nathan, was in the army. How long, we have not been able to ascertain. He died in the service of his country.

ELIPHALET ALLEN was in the Revolutionary war. We have not been able to obtain particulars, or the extent of his services.

RUFUS CLARK was in the Revolutionary war, with the exception of short intervals, from its commencement to the close. He was in the engagements against Burgoyne, and was present at the surrender of the British army. He was also present at another surrender, equally memorable, at Yorktown. Those two events, Mr. Clark never forgot. Well might he often speak of them with laudable pride. He received one or two wounds in battle. There is no doubt he acted his part faithfully and bravely for his country. He was one of the many, who came from Medfield.

ELIJAH CARPENTER was in the French war about one year. He was also in the Revolutionary service about eight months. He was a while at Roxbury.

- CAPT. TIMOTHY PARKER.—We have previously remarked, that by reference to the town records, it will appear that Capt. Newell, Capt. Crafts and Capt. Parker, were actively engaged, at an early period, in preparing their companies, for the approaching conflict. One of the military regulations of the day, was to keep a portion of the militia, called minute-men, in readiness, at short notice, for active service. They were considered auxiliary to the regular establishment, and not so much to be depended upon as regular troops. Some of the early engagements prove the truth of this remark. A great portion of this kind of troops became gradually incorporated with the regular forces. Hence the necessity of preparatory discipline. Capt. Parker was the commander of one of the companies of minute men. We are informed by aged men, that he was in active service with his company in several campaigns. He sustained the reputation of a good officer, and a decided patriot. Some years after the close of the war, he removed to the town of Holden. The writer recollects very well of seeing Capt. Parker several times. He was a man of unus-

ual size, possessing prominent and striking features. His whole demeanor exhibited a man who would not be first to turn his back to the enemy. Capt. Parker, united with an exemplary moral, the christian character.

JOSEPH CHENEY.—Mr. Cheney was Lieutenant of a company of minute-men. It is presumable this was Capt. Parker's company. He was in active service, but we do not recollect, nor are we able to collect particulars, in relation to his revolutionary services. He was a prominent supporter of civil and religious institutions. He was hospitable, companionable, and always ready to perform acts of kindness. This venerable man was constantly to be seen in the house of public worship. We presume he would not quail in scenes of danger, but, if we mistake not, he did not possess that high degree of firmness which characterized a great portion of the men of the revolution. He died at an advanced age.

SAMUEL SHUMWAY was in actual service about one year. He was a thrifty farmer, a useful townsman, and an exemplary christian. He died Oct. 2d, 1842, in the ninety third year of his age. He bequeathed to the Congregational Society one hundred dollars.

ABIJAH SHUMWAY was more than one year in the Revolutionary war. He died many years since, leaving a widow who until the time of her death, continued to draw a pension, on the ground of her husband's services. She lived to the advanced age of about 95.

The Shumways resided in that portion of the town called Shumway-Hill, where some of the descendants of those revolutionary men still reside. We can speak of them, in commendable terms, for their industrious and exemplary habits, and christian character. Their grand-father was the first settler of the tract which is in possession of the third generation, Abijah and Samuel.

JOHN COREY, a brother of David Corey, was in the service about eight months in the year 1776, in the state of

New-York. It was at that dark period of the contest, to which we have more than once alluded, and of which we have often heard the veterans of the revolution speak.

SAMUEL RICHARDSON was in New-York about the same length of time, and probably in the same company with John Corey.

OLIVER PLIMPTON.—How long he was in the service, we cannot speak definitely. He must have been quite young. If as prompt and energetic in military duty as he was afterwards as a man of business, he sustained the reputation of a good soldier. Our first acquaintance with him was in the year 1811. He was then fully occupied as a farmer, and discharged the duties of a magistrate. Possessing a vigorous mind, and quick apprehension, although not a lawyer, he generally decided correctly the numerous contested suits which were brought before him. He was much employed for many years in disposing of actions of this sort, and others by default. It is well known to those who can remember that period of our history, that actions before magistrates, and the higher Courts, were much more numerous, in proportion to the population, than at the present day. The change may be ascribed in a great degree to a less stringent mode of coercion in the collection of debts, and the temperance reformation. Oliver Plimpton was active in municipal concerns, and represented the town at several periods in the General Court. His farm, garden, and buildings, exhibited discreet management, good taste and convenience. The visitor always enjoyed a pleasant and social interview in his accomplished family. His appearance was dignified and commanded respect. The evening of his days was in some degree shaded by too much indulgence. The early period, consecrated to his country, will be especially remembered. It is also to be remembered, that during the Revolutionary war, and the subsequent period, to the commencement of the temperance reformation, the opinion was prevalent, that ardent spirit of some sort,

was indispensable for the human constitution engaged in laborious exercise. Many a strong man found it not easy to overcome habits thus contracted.

MOSES PLIMPTON, a brother of Oliver Plimpton, was in the army, and died in the state of Rhode-Island, while in actual service.

CAPT. SAMUEL NEWELL.—We well remember Capt. Newell, a neighbor of Oliver Plimpton, who was in the Revolutionary war, excepting at short intervals, during its continuance. We have heard him speak of the hardships and sufferings incident to some portions of that period. "Frequently straightened in the necessary supplies of food and clothing, subjected to the inclemency of the weather, and the rigors of winter, our condition demanded the greatest self-denial. Those who have not encountered the trials by experience, have but a feeble conception of the reality. We know something of the cost of our independence, and how to prize it. Our labors, our property, and much of the choicest blood of America, were sacrificed on the altar of our independence." It was literally so. 'This is the price of that priceless inheritance which those suffering men have transmitted to their posterity. After the all-absorbing object was accomplished, Mr. Newell returned to his occupation and pursued it with great industry till his death. He was a very exemplary man, and of the strictest integrity. His moral character passed through the ordeal untarnished. Capt. Newell was in several important engagements, but we do not remember with certainty when or where.

We subjoin a few remarks in connection with a particular period of Capt. Newell's revolutionary services. It was a period of the conflict which the descendants of the fathers of the Revolution should keep particularly in remembrance. We have been reminded by Mr. Moses Newell, a nephew, that Capt. Newell was in the battle at Brandy-wine, which occurred in Sept. 1777, and probably, in the battle at Germantown, which was in the early part of the following Oc-

tober. The first battle continued during the most of the day, and resulted in a severe loss of the Americans. According to the statement of the enemy, our loss, in killed and wounded, was one thousand, and four hundred taken prisoners: and their loss was comparatively small. In this engagement, Fergusson, a Col. of a regiment of British riflemen, made the first experiment of his newly invented rifle. It is probable that worked to their satisfaction in cutting down the rebels, as they were termed by the mother country. Washington made a skillful retreat. The British claimed also the victory, in the battle at Germantown, but that was purchased at a much dearer rate. It was so nobly contested, against fearful odds, by the Americans, that the result was for some time doubtful. The British claimed that our loss, in killed and wounded, was twelve hundred, and that theirs, but a little more than half that number. Gen. Washington again made a masterly retreat. If the British statement be correct, we had lost, in killed, wounded and taken prisoners, about two thousand and six hundred men, in those two engagements. A severe and distressing loss! It must be remembered that the British had at this time, in that quarter, their best troops, in large numbers, commanded by their best officers. These forces, they deemed sufficient to crush the rebels. For a while, every thing gave way before them. They took possession of the large cities and towns, in rapid succession. Our troops poorly fed, and thinly clad, were compelled to retreat from place to place. Gloomy and appalling was the aspect around them. Washington was, no doubt, pained to the heart, at the losses and sufferings of his brave men, whom he loved with almost parental affection. He clearly saw that great sacrifices must be made, and a vast amount of suffering endured, and that the blood of his beloved men must freely flow, before the great end in view, would be attained. Defeats and retreats, he no doubt expected. Although the losses of men were severe, he was very careful of the lives

of his men. He knew well the forces of the enemy, and how they must ultimately be defeated, if defeated at all. He knew it must be done, by this kind of severe and protracted discipline of his own troops, and by worrying out, so to speak, the enemy. It was a hard lot for America, but it must be endured, if she would win the prize of independence.

STEPHEN NEWELL, a younger brother, was in the service, several limited periods, and held the rank of orderly Sergeant, an office of some responsibility. He loved to dwell on the unwearied trials and efforts of that day, and to witness their cheering effects. He was industrious and correct in his habits, and possessed firmness, and decision of character. As a townsman he was frequently elected to take a part in the management of its interests.

Mr. Newell, with a party, arrived at the battle-ground about the time Burgoyne surrendered. He probably belonged to Capt. Mason's company.

CALEB ALLEN.—Mr. Allen was born in Sturbridge, where he lived and died. He was in the service the greatest portion of the Revolutionary war, and during the darkest hours of its history. In 1776, he was stationed in the city of New-York, afterwards at the Heights of Harlem. He was afterwards in the battle at White-Plains, which gave a cheering impulse to the Americans.

It is worthy of notice, that the military and citizens, in large numbers, are accustomed to gather on the battle-ground, in military style, to celebrate that engagement, which occurred on the 28th of Oct. 1776. The military exhibit the movements of hostile parties, although a bloodless engagement. The effect is to keep that and other revolutionary events, in lively remembrance. The banks of the Hudson were the theatre of many such thrilling transactions. The visitor, in traversing that ground, is constantly reminded of the stirring realities of the Revolution.

If we mistake not, he was in the engagements at Trenton

and Princeton. Allen had a very retentive memory, which was a store-house of amusing anecdotes, and many interesting facts, in relation to the Revolution, at command on all occasions. He remembered all the officers, and their traits of character. He loved to speak of the noble bearing of Washington, and of the daring, and eccentricities of Putnam. If any bold enterprise was in contemplation, Putnam, in his frank and familiar way of address, would say, "George, *you* plan, and *I* will fight." This pithy expression is a full developement of the character of each. Washington had no superior in planning. No man could fight more courageously than Putnam. The writer has heard Allen narrate the privations and sufferings of the American army. He would remark, at the same time, "although our sufferings were so severe, we had no idea of abandoning the cause in which we were engaged. Although we were frequently obliged to flee from the enemy, we did not despair of ultimate success." Mr. Allen was in stature about six feet four or five inches, broad shoulders, and of great muscular power. Always in humble circumstances, he during the last years of his life, possessed no other means of support besides his pension. He died at an advanced age.

His services to his country, entitle him to honorable remembrance.

As we have remarked of Benjamin Hobbs, no monument tells the spot where lie his bones.

COMFORT JOHNSON.—The writer was well acquainted with Mr. Johnson. A native of Sturbridge, he was born in the year 1747. His military services were not less, perhaps more than three months. He had an uncommonly retentive memory, and was ever ready to entertain the hearer with revolutionary reminiscences, and other matters of interest, touching the early settlement of the town. We speak of memory, as it was the principal historical record, on which many, of his day, depended. He was a



farmer, and kept a public house for many years. He was tall, erect, and of a firm physical constitution. He died on the 13th day of Feb. 1839, at the great age of 91 years.

**JOSHUA MASON.**—Mr. Mason was a native of Sturbridge, and entered the service at the age of fifteen or sixteen, near the close of the war. He was in the army about six months. His dependence for a livelihood was on his own personal efforts. In the early part of his life, he was employed as a hired man, generally at the rate of seven dollars a month. Economy and keen calculation, began to develope results in his favor. A strict adherence to this course of life, enabled him to sum up, some years before its close, about one hundred thousand dollars. This is an extraordinary estate for a farmer, considering that it was acquired under no peculiarly favorable circumstances. Economy was one of the cardinal virtues of his time, and carried out by him to an unusual degree of exactness. He was lenient to his creditors, and sometimes extended such indulgence as resulted in heavy losses. He cheerfully patronized our common school system, and was gratified to witness the proficiency of children. His diet was of the simplest kind, not tinctured, in the least, with modern dainties. His uniform good health, vigor, and protracted life, may be imputed, in a great degree to his abstemious mode of living. He was in person, tall, very erect, possessing a visage indicative of the keen calculating powers within. Mr. Mason died in 1849, aged 82.

**SIMON MASON**, an older half-brother of Joshua, was in the service two or three several periods. He drew a pension. Although in easy circumstances, and the possessor of property amply sufficient for the support of himself and family, we recollect the gratification he expressed in being thus remembered by his country. It revived afresh, in his old age, the events of the Revolution, and kindled up a cheering animation in his countenance and

language. It was a manifestation of gratitude which cheered the heart of many an aged veteran. Mr. Mason was a saving, close-calculating man; very plain in his dress and manners, perfectly honest and honorable in his dealings. He was also an exemplary christian. He lived to a great age.

ASAHEL CLARK bore arms in the French war. He was one of the first settlers of that portion of Sturbridge, now Southbridge.

JOSHUA HARDING was in the Revolutionary war, and was what was called one of the three-year men. We have spoken of him in another place, as prominent in town affairs.

OLIVER ROBBINS, ABEL GUNN, JAMES DYER, THOMAS DYER, JESSE SABIN, CHARLES WEST, ROBERT EDWARDS, and NATHAN BROWN, were also in the Revolution.

Robert Edwards was the father of Mr. Jacob Edwards, still living, and the grand-father of William, Jacob, and John Edwards, who have, for many years been extensively concerned in mercantile business in Southbridge.

CAPT. JOILN CONGDON was in the Revolutionary war, several campaigns. After the close of the war, he was master of a vessel several years, in the employment of the noted Gerard. He removed to Sturbridge, where he passed the latter part of his life, in agricultural pursuits, highly respected.

DUTY MARSH was in the Revolutionary war. He was a brother of Silas Marsh, whose character is sketched in another place.

ASA HOMER, DANIEL MORSE, and JEREMY MORSE, bore arms in the Revolution.

Asa Morse was the owner of the noted farm, on Lebanon-Hill, (so called,) now owned by his son, Parker Morse, containing about three hundred acres of land. Asa Walker, (one of the seven sons of Nathaniel Walker,) was the first

settler of this farm, and probably the first settler of Lebanon-Hill. This eminence has not only the attraction of a very productive soil, but of a most delightful view of the surrounding country. Fourteen churches are here to be seen. They are certainly no doubtful evidence of thrift and moral character. Hatchet Hill, (so called,) is more elevated, and the view more extensive, but Lebanon-Hill has the superiority in point of soil.

LEMUEL CLARK was in the service during most of the war. With lively interest he would speak of the events of the Revolution.

JOSEPH TOWNE, JOEL BARRIT, THOMAS JAMES, ENOS MORSE, HINSDALL HAMANT, THOMAS WAKEFIELD, MARVIL JACKSON, ELIJAH MARCY, AARON MARSH, JEPHTHAH CLARK, WALTER FREEMAN, and JACOB CLEAVELAND, were in the Continental Army for the term of six months, in the year 1780. The roll from which the names are taken, includes many whose names are mentioned in other places. Probably some of the above named individuals were in the service at other periods of the war. We are indebted to Mr. Joseph Clark for the above names on the roll, found among the papers of his father, and also for the names of other Revolutionary soldiers.

PAMENIAS THAYER, a native of Sturbridge, was about three years under Gen. Wayne, in the war which broke out with the Indians, in 1791. He has stated to the writer, that he was present when the Indians surrendered. This war was a severe trial to the physical constitution. Mr. Thayer never afterwards enjoyed firm health.

The reader perceives that our sketches of some who bore arms in the Revolutionary war, are more brief than those of many others. The want of desired information is the occasion of the difference. Those venerated men are gone, and most of those, who knew them best, are also gone.

Even at this period of removal from them, the difficulty of obtaining particulars will be readily perceived.

ISAAC WARNER, (the father of Roswill Warner, Esq. still living, and long known as one of our active and respected citizens,) was a resident of Sturbridge, when he entered the Revolutionary service. He was several months at Cambridge, and was prevented by sickness, from taking a part in the Bunker Hill Battle. His young wife was left at home alone with an infant child. This circumstance is noticed, as one of the multiplied trials of that day. Mr. Warner was afterwards a Captain of the militia, and took an active part with his company in quelling the Shays Insurrection. He resided in Brookfield, at that time. He was a very companionable man, extensively known and respected.

ELIJAH SHUMWAY (the son of David Shumway, the first settler, where Mr. Mason Streeter now lives,) was a while in the Revolutionary war. Lewis, a son of Elijah, informs us that he has often heard him speak of being in the service.

ASA BULLARD, for many years a resident of Sturbridge, where he died at an advanced age, was in the army a sufficient length of time to obtain a pension. We do not recollect where he was born, or where he lived when he entered the service. He was a worthy man. Being in indigent circumstances, his pension was quite a relief.

ZACHARIAH and EDWARD COBURN, brothers, and natives of Charlton, were both, according to the recollection of aged men, in the Army. They were for a long time residents of Sturbridge, where they died.

LIEUT. JOHN TAYLOR was born in Charleston, R. I. Feb. 25th, 1755, being about 21, at the commencement of the Revolution. He ardently espoused the cause of the Colonies, but being of Quaker parentage, and educated in the pacific tenets of that sect, it was not easy for him to overcome his scruples in regard to taking up arms. The

battles of Lexington and Bunker-Hill, in connection with his strong aversion to oppression, seemed effectually to remove his doubts on this point. Having been drafted into a company of militia, he shouldered his gun, and marched to the music of the fife and the drum, to battle for principles which could not be obtained by peaceful means. His services were mostly confined to the operations of the militia, during the war. He was occasionally in the regular army as a volunteer, or as substitute for his father, who, though decidedly in favor of the cause of the Colonies, could never be induced to bear arms. His residence was some four miles easterly of Watch-Hill light-house, and within one mile of the shore. He became a Lieutenant of the militia, and was much engaged in the defence of the coast. Almost daily, some American craft or vessel was run ashore to escape the British cruisers, stationed near Block-Island. The Rhode-Islanders, having cannon stationed along the beach, were ever on the alert to protect the American craft. Often, (as Lieut. Taylor was accustomed to relate some of their adventures) within a mile, in full view of the British man of war, and in the midst of flying cannon balls, would they draw out their cannon, the commander riding astride the gun, and swinging his hat in defiance and contempt of the enemy. We mention this circumstance to show the spirit of the Rhode-Islanders. Like the Green-Mountain boys, they possessed an abundant share of genuine, unflinching mettle. The crew of the British vessel knew very well what would be their destiny, if they approached the shore in their barges. Lieut. Taylor was in Gen. Sullivan's expedition, on Rhode-Island, to which we have alluded in another place. He married Elizabeth Chatman who had three or four brothers in the army. Two of them perished in the notorious Jersey prison-ship. Lieut. Taylor removed to Sturbridge in 1808, where he enjoyed public confidence and public trust. He died in 1811, at the age of 86. He possessed great physical power, and a countenance indica-

tive of sterling courage, a striking specimen of the men who achieved the Independence of their country. Although entitled, probably, to a full pension, he preferred that his services to his country should be gratuitous. A. P. Taylor, Esq. long well known among us, is a son of Lieut. Taylor.

We have spoken more particularly of those who personally embarked in the contest. It is not to be inferred that the great work devolved exclusively on them. It must be admitted, they were subjected to more imminent perils, and severer hardships than those who remained at home. The field was the theatre where life was exposed to the deadly power of the enemy. Those, who did not take the field, were alike subjected to the exhausting demands constantly made on their resources. The thrilling anxieties were equally theirs. The female sex sustained their part with heroic firmness. The spirit of liberty was cherished in their bosoms with unrelaxed perseverance. Self-denial was never more nobly exemplified. While the husband, the father, and the brother, were fighting the battles of Independence, the masculine duties were cheerfully discharged by them at home. The hoe, the ax, and the stall, became their familiar companions. We may readily suppose their pillows bore witness to many a sleepless night. How could they sustain the frequent heart-rending tidings, that a husband, a son, or father had fallen on the field of battle! Here were the keenest trials in that long conflict. Men were called upon to leave at a minute's warning. With many of them, it was their last farewell of home. There was one consoling ingredient in the cup of grief. They fell in the defence of a righteous cause. Their memories were embalmed in many a smitten heart. They claim, likewise, a grateful remembrance of that country whose independence they sealed with their blood.

*Names of the men who were in the Revolutionary and French Wars, from Sturbridge.*

The letters F. and R. designate French and Revolutionary Wars.

Eliphalet Allen, R.	Lieut. Benj. Felton, F. and R.
Abraham Allen, R.	Walter Freeman, R.
Caleb Allen, R.	Abel Gunn, R.
Thomas Boyden, F. and R.	John Gess, R.
John Boyden, R.	Eleazer Howard, F. and R.
Amos Boyden, R.	Benj. Humphrey, R.
Justus Boyden, R.	Abijah Hyde, R.
Nathan Brown, R.	Joshua Hyde, R.
Joel Barret, R.	Benjamin Hobbs, R.
Asa Bullard, R.	John Holbrook, R.
Maj. Asa Coburn, R.	Benjamin Hyde, R.
Henry Clark, R.	John Hyde, R.
Capt. Henry Clark, R.	Othniel Hyde, R.
Rufus Clark, R.	Samuel Hyde, R.
David Corey, R.	Joshua Harding, R.
Joseph Cheney, R.	Hensdale Hamant, R.
John Corey, R.	James Johnson, F. and R.
Elijah Carpenter, F. and R.	Joshua Jerold, R.
Phineas Coburn, R.	Comfort Johnson, R.
Col. Ebenezer Crafts, R.	Thomas Janes, R.
Lemuel Clark, R.	Marvel Jackson, R.
Asahel Clark, F.	Wm. Leech, R.
Jephthah Clark, R.	Jesse Sabin, R.
Jacob Cleaveland, R.	Capt. Abel Mason, F. and R.
Capt. John Congdon, R.	Simeon Mason, R.
Zachariah Coburn, R.	Ithamar Merrifield, R.
Edward Coburn, R.	Calvin Marsh, R.
Stephen Draper, R.	Joshua Mason, R.
Silas Duntou, R.	Samuel Morse, R.
Benjamin Dix, R.	Silas Marsh, R.
John Duntou, R.	Mr. Morse, R.
James Dyer, R.	Joseph Mills, R.
Thomas Dyer, R.	Capt. Adam Martin, R.
Robert Edwards, R.	Aaron Martin, R.
Cyrus Fay, R.	Moses Martin, R.
Simeon Fisk, R.	Asa Morse, R.
Nathan Fisk, R.	Daniel Morse, R.
Joshua Fisk, R.	Jeremy Morse, R.

Duty Marsh, R.	Nahum Smith, R.
Enos Morse, R.	Samuel Shumway, R.
Elijah Marcy, R.	Abijah Shumway, R.
Aaron Marsh, R.	Mark Stacy, R.
Timothy Newell, R.	Amos Scott, R.
Capt. Samuel Newell, R.	William Simpson, R.
Lieut. Stephen Newell, R.	Elijah Shumway, R.
Dea. John Phillips, R.	Joseph Towne, R.
Dr. Eben'r Phillips, R.	Parmenas Thayer, Indian w.
Elijah Plimpton, R.	Isaac Upham, R.
Daniel Plimpton, R.	Jonathan Upham, R.
Timothy Parker, R.	Lieut. Nathaniel Walker F. R.
Oliver Plimpton, R.	Josiah Walker, F.
Moses Plimpton, R.	Dennison Wheelock, R.
John Plimpton, R.	Ralph Wheelock, R.
Elias Plimpton, R.	Benjamin Walker, R.
Primus, (color'd man,) R.	George Watkins, F.
Ichabod Robbins, R.	Mr. Welch, R.
Eli Robbins, R.	Charles West, R.
Col. Nathan Rice, R.	Thomas Wakefield, R.
Oliver Robbins, R.	Obed Walker, R.
Timothy Smith, R.	Phineas Walker, F. and R.
Nathan Smith, R.	Capt. Isaac Warner, R.
Moses Smith, R.	Thomas Young, R.
John Salmon, R.	Lieut. John Taylor, R.
Joseph Shaw, R.	

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On the 4th of July, 1838, the two towns united in a centennial celebration of Sturbridge, one hundred years having elapsed from its incorporation. The clergy, and large numbers from the neighboring towns, joined in the celebration. The address, embracing an interesting sketch of the early settlement of the town, and of revolutionary events, was delivered by the Rev. J. S. Clark, in the Congregational church, to a crowded audience. After the close of the very interesting exercises in the church, the large gathering of the people, of both sexes, repaired to a long table, on the common, spread with an abundance of good things. Col. Edward Phillips presided at the table. The recollections of the past furnished an ample supply of topics for remark.



The presence of a goodly number of Revolutionary Patriots greatly increased the interest of the occasion. Only one, (Dea. John Phillips,) of those venerated men, now remains. One hundred years had developed great changes. More than three generations had passed away, leaving marked impressions of their works. Such occasions are replete with interest, and tend to revive and perpetuate grateful recollections of those who deserve gratitude.

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EBENEZER DAVIS.—Mr. Davis was a co-temporary with Gen. Newell of Sturbridge, Gen. Danelson of Brimfield, Caleb Amidown Esq. and Gen. Towne, of Charlton. They were all men of distinction, and regarded as men of more than common abilities. They were not distinguished for their learning, or as jurists, orators or statesmen, but as discreet, practical men, exerting a salutary and controlling influence around them. Their characters are a common inheritance, claiming remembrance, especially in this vicinity. Our attention is at this time more particularly confined to that of Mr. Davis. He commenced his active life with the early settlement of this section of country, and passed through those thrilling and critical periods of our history to which we have often alluded. The writer, before he came to Sturbridge, had frequently heard of *Elby Davis* of Charlton, (as he was familiarly called,) not only as a man of wealth, but of intelligence and superior abilities. He had occasion to call on him several times; once or twice to transact business, and at other times specially to enjoy his edifying conversation. He spoke of his mode of transacting business, and alluded to some of the losses he had sustained. This allusion was made not by way of regret at the losses, but to show his indulgence. The various scenes through which he had passed, were all familiar. It was an edifying treat to hear him bring to view and enlarge upon them. His memory was remarkably retentive at the age of seventy

five. Indeed, he appeared to be in the full possession of all his mental faculties. Every thing about him exhibited characteristics of simplicity and frugality. The furniture of his house was plain and substantial,—nothing superfluous or ornamental. His mansion was in keeping with every thing within it. It was thoroughly built, commodious, and sufficiently large. His lands were managed in such a manner as to render them productive. His table was always furnished with the substantials of life.

Whenever the writer called upon him he happened to be alone in his room. At those calls, we remember distinctly seeing the old family Bible, with its brazen clasps, lying open on the bed or table. It appeared to be his familiar companion. His mind was undoubtedly richly replenished from the exhaustless fountain. Books, in his early days, were comparatively few, and opportunities for schooling very limited. How did men like him, as we have more than once suggested, obtain that knowledge which was so discreetly carried out in practice. Without doubt they drank deeply from the Divine fountain, where are to be found the best rules for practice in every condition of life. They were keen observers of men and things, and gathered information from whatever fell within the scope of their observations. Men of his stamp, and in truth, men generally, thought and examined for themselves, and acted accordingly.

Since writing the foregoing remarks, we have been favored by the Hon. E. D. Ammidown with some interesting particulars respecting his grandfather, the subject of this sketch. Mr. Davis, while residing with his father, in Oxford, his native town, purchased the farm or tract of land in Charlton, before the incorporation of the latter town, which became his residence for life. At that time, most of the surrounding region was in a state of nature. It was his custom as soon as the day broke, to take his axe, walk through the wilderness to his land, do his day's work, and

at night, (as he expressed it,) "take a back trot home." This was the kind of exercise which made men in those days. During some period of the French war, he was engaged, (how long we are not informed) in the capacity of commissary, in furnishing supplies for the troops. In one of their expeditions to Canada, he gave a thrilling account of the suffering of the party of troops, with which he was connected. In returning home, they missed the way, in the wilderness, and having exhausted their provisions, were six days without food. Famished, weak, and reduced almost to starvation, they reached a settlement on Sunday. However strange it may seem, they were compelled to encounter the superstitious scruples of the people in granting them relief, on that day. The party was not in a condition to hold a protracted debate on the subject. The sufferers peremptorily declared that relief must forthwith be granted, or they should help themselves. There was no longer delay. The relief was granted. A bullock was dispatched and cooked as quickly as possible. The appetite, by this time, had become uncontrollable. To some of the sufferers, this proved their last meal. Others, enduring extreme suffering, barely survived. Mr. Davis, with his characteristic prudence, observed caution. As he remarked, he commenced by taking a little of the broth, as the cooking was going on. With this precaution, he escaped, in a great measure, the distress of some, and the sad destiny of others. By furnishing the army with provisions in the way to which we have alluded, it is supposed he laid the foundation of his large estate. After acquiring a little surplus of money, he commenced loaning, at six per cent, taking security on real estate. This was, mainly, his mode of accumulating his property, which was continued till the close of his life. In his last days he was heard to remark, with seeming satisfaction. "I can look back, on my life, in this respect, and say, I have oppressed no man, nor can any man say, I have

taken more than six per cent for money loaned ; but I always required my interest to be paid annually."

Up to the time of the settlement of his estate in 1816, there had not been an estate settled through the Probate office, in the County of Worcester, so large as Mr. Davis'. Although a man of exemplary industry and frugality, something more than a strict observance of these virtues, was requisite to amass such an estate. The requisites were, an extraordinary judgment, and extraordinary gifts of calculation. Systematic arrangement characterized all his movements, and business transactions. As we have observed, his conversation was uncommonly easy, pleasant and edifying, and replete with sound common sense. Had he prepared himself for either of the professions, there is no doubt he would have been prominent among the first. Had he been elevated to the executive chair of the nation, even with his limited literary acquirements, we hazard the assertion, that the reins of government would have been held with a discreet and impartial hand, and his administration would have reflected credit on the country. Can this be said of *all* who have occupied that high position. Such men must be brought into the field, if we would, as a nation, regain the elevation we once held in this respect. There is a satisfaction in dwelling upon the sterling virtues of such men.

Mr. Davis was, in person tall, rather corpulent, of dignified deportment, and possessed a countenance of cheerfulness and intelligence.

Our late excellent chief magistrate, Emory Washburn, is a grandson of Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis died Aug. 10th, 1816, in the 78th year of his age.

MR. HOLMES AMMIDOWN, a son of the late Luther Ammidown Esq. has very generously furnished us with the result of his researches, in reference to his ancestors. We give it in his own language.

“According to the best information I have been able to obtain, the Ammidowns, originally, were French Huguenots, from Toulouse in the south west part of France. They left that country about the time of the first religious war between the protestants and catholics, which broke out in 1621; or at the fall of Rochelle, and the general dispersion of the protestants, in 1629. That city being the principal place of embarkation to English ports, large numbers of the Huguenots, at the time of its surrender to the catholics, left for England, and being of a similar cast of mind upon religious affairs, it was quite natural that some of their number should join the Puritans in forming the New-England colony.

Roger Ammidown, it is most likely, came out with John Endicot, or John Winthrop, probably with the first named, in 1628, or with the latter, in 1630.

The first emigrants who came out from London, under the charge of Endicot, came for the express purpose, as was set forth, to carry on a plantation, and to provide a safe retreat, where they might enjoy religious liberty in matters of worship and discipline. This settlement was made at Naunkeak, New Salem, for the benefit of non-conformists. This was the first Colony settlement in Massachusetts, and was described as follows. “All that part of New-England, lying between three miles to the northward of Merrimack River, and three miles to the southward of Charles River, and in length within the described breadth, from the Atlantic ocean to the south sea.” The French name was “Amidown” or “Aimedown,” using the “u” instead of “w” as it is now spelt. “Aimedown” is according to the record, as stated by the author of the early history of the town of Salem, 1637. Our early ancestors were evidently a pioneer people, preferring the frontier settlement; removing from Salem to Weymouth, at which place Roger Amidown and his wife Sarah, record the birth of their daughter Sarah, in the 10th mo. 6th, 1640; from thence to Boston, where is

found recorded in the first book of records, alphabetically, the "first child under the letter A." "Lydia," daughter of Roger Amadowne and Sarah his wife, born 2 mo. 22d, 1643. This is the year that Suffolk County was incorporated. Next, I find Roger Ammidowne at Rehoboth, in 1648. That town was incorporated in 1645 by the Plymouth Colony, which Colony remained entire until 1685, when it was divided into the three counties as now named, Plymouth, Bristol and Barnstable, and so remained until the year 1692, when that Colony was annexed to the Colony of Massachusetts. The town of Rehoboth, as their records show, gave Roger Amidown in 1648, a house lot, between Walter Palmer's house and the mill, besides a piece of salt marsh and other lands. Also, at a town meeting lawfully warned, in June 22d, 1658, lots were drawn for the meadows that lie on the north side of the town, according to person and estate. Forty nine persons being enlisted to draw, and Roger Ammidowne stands numbered 43. Roger Ammidowne died November 13th, 1673, and left a son, "Ebenezer," who, as the records of that town show, was esteemed one of their public spirited and patriotic men, in the days of the renowned "Indian King Phillip, of Mount-Hope;" and, as history proclaims, when that town moved to raise funds, by subscription, to carry on that bloody war, this "Ebenezer" responded in the sum of 1s. 6d. The destruction of King Phillip, with his followers at Mount-Hope, in 1676, at that period in Plymouth Colony, may justly be claimed as great an achievement as the memorable declaration, one hundred years afterwards, which accomplished the separation of the United Colonies from Great Britain, in the year 1776.

Whether this Ebenezer Ammidown was a martyr in the patriotic cause, history does not show, but it may be so, as his two children, in the year 1689, "Phillip and Henry," are styled as orphans, according to the following record—"William Bradford, of Plymouth Colony, sold to certain

proprietors of land in Rehoboth, a tract of land," and included with those proprietors, are named Phillip and Henry Ammidowne, orphan children. One of these orphans, Phillip, "subsequently removed to Mendon, and married Ithamore Warfield. Their first child, Ichabod, was born 1704, and the second, Mary, 1706, and the third, a son, "Phillip," 1708, and this Phillip was our great Grandfather, who married Submit Bullard, and their first child, Caleb Ammidown, born August, 1736, was our Grandfather, who married Hannah Sabin, who was born Feb. 2d, 1741, and died March 4th, 1820. Their children, John Ammidown, born April 5th, 1759; Luther, born July 8th, 1761; and Calvin, born June 21st, 1768; and their descendants were, and many now are, residents of Southbridge. Our great grandfather's father, Phillip, removed from Mendon to Oxford, about the time of the incorporation of that town, in 1713, and died there, March 15th, 1747. Charlton was incorporated in 1754, and our great Grandfather was an early settler; he died 1779."

CALEB AMMIDOWN, the father of John, Luther, and Calvin Ammidown, was born in August, 1736, and died April 13th, 1799, in the 63d year of his age. Being a prominent man of the times of which we have particularly spoken, a brief sketch of his character is attempted, as far as we have obtained a knowledge of it. The writer in the former part of his life, recollects very well hearing the elderly men speak of Mr. Ammidown as a man of notoriety and influence, and whose opinion was highly appreciated. More than once we have heard the following anecdote related of him. At some period in the earlier part of his life, he was the orderly sergeant of a militia company. It was thought expedient to memorialize the existing government, in some matter deemed important. "To whom shall we apply to make the draft of the instrument to be sent?" was a matter of consultation among the officers of the militia. The captain of the company to which Mr. Ammidown be-

longed, proposed his orderly serjeant. Some surprise was manifested. It was concluded that serjeant Ammidown should make the attempt. The object of the proposed memorial was stated to him. Mr. Ammidown, having procured pen, ink and paper, and making his lap, covered with his leather apron, his writing desk, went to work, and soon produced a document which exactly met their views. This instance is related to show his early aptness as a ready writer. We are informed by our venerable friend, Dea. Phillips, who was well acquainted with Mr. Ammidown, that he was a man of extraordinary abilities. In important questions, his judgment was highly valued. He speaks of him as a legislator, having few superiors, in correct and comprehensive views. As a ready writer, his pen was freely, and profitably used, in the legislature. Although not a very ready debater, he would frequently baffle those who were more learned, and more gifted in speaking. He was fond of collisions of this sort, as an occasion of pleasantry. A rude attack would receive such a retort as could not be comfortably enjoyed.

The Hon. E. D. Ammidown has furnished us some additional particulars respecting his grandfather, Caleb Ammidown. As he was extensively known, and influential, although moving in the common walks of life, his business talents as well as other traits of character, are worthy of remembrance. It is not certain that he actually bore arms during the revolutionary struggle, but, during that period, he was actively engaged in discharging various important trusts. After the close of the war, he represented the town of Charlton, several years. This was one of the trying periods, in our history. The state of affairs was such as required the strongest and most discreet men. Mr. Ammidown was one of the men who took an active part in bringing order out of confusion, and adjusting the discordant elements.



He was also appointed to survey the confiscated lands in this section of country, including a large part of Charlton. Among his papers are to be seen numerous plans and maps of lands surveyed and lotted out by him.

He was a member of the Court of Sessions, a Court whose jurisdiction embraced many important matters within the limits of the County.

For several years he was excise man, under the general Government. This was a very laborious office, including the whole County of Worcester. Its duties required an annual inventory of the groceries sold in the county, and the imposition and collection of a specific tax, on the same. It is evident Mr. Ammidown was a working as well as a calculating man.

In summing up the traits of his character, the most prominent were, firmness, resolution, integrity, perseverance, and keen foresight. It was not easy to impose upon him by any ingenious pretexts, or specious pretensions. Mr. Ammidown was plain in his dress, in his manners, and in conversation, but not vulgar, or profane. When such men as Mr. Ammidown are entrusted with public concerns, there is little danger but they will be managed with discretion.

We cannot allow ourselves to pass over in silence, CALVIN AMMIDOWN Esq. a son of Caleb Ammidown. The writer enjoyed his acquaintance and frequent manifestations of his generous and benevolent heart. He was ever ready to assist and encourage young men, if they were disposed to assist themselves. Mr. Ammidown was one of the most efficient men in procuring the incorporation of the town of Southbridge, and in laying a foundation for its future growth and prosperity. He was equally efficient in building up and sustaining the religious society to which he belonged. The religious and civil state of things, when the town was incorporated, was in its infancy, and required such men as Mr. Ammidown to place it on a stable basis. To effect so desirable an object, he spared no pains. He was ever ready

with an open hand, cheerful heart, and active personal efforts to promote any enterprise which promised utility. A large proportion of the expense of erecting the congregational church in Southbridge, was borne by him. In sustaining stated preaching he was equally liberal. He never rushed precipitately into any project in contemplation, but examined carefully and keenly, bearings and consequences, before he was ready to act. When his mind was made up, he was not easily diverted from his purpose. He carried out in life, that firmness of character which descended as a legitimate inheritance. Honest, high-minded, and possessing enlarged views, his controlling aim was to promote the best interests of the community. Mr. Ammidown married a daughter of Ebenezer Davis, whose character we have briefly sketched. By this connection, his property was considerably augmented, thereby enabling him to enlarge his business, and to be more extensively useful. Mr. Ammidown was always actively employed, either in his own concerns or in those of a public nature. It is not improbable he taxed his physical and mental powers too severely, and thereby shortened the period of his usefulness. He discharged the duties of legislator, of a magistrate, and frequently of an arbitrator in settling the disagreements of parties. In all these trusts, no one doubted his ability or honesty. In his social habits, cordial, agreeable, and edifying, his company was always desirable. Without any disparagement to others, it may truly be said, that no man in Southbridge was exerting a more energetic and salutary influence than Calvin Ammidown, up to the time he was cut down in the midst of his usefulness. Mr. Ammidown lived to witness the early and promising growth of the town of which he was eminently one of its fathers. He was, in person, a little above the ordinary size, possessing prominent features, and a countenance indicating firmness and intelligence.

In his death, all felt, especially in the community where he was intimately known, a great public and private loss had been sustained.

He was the father of the Hon. E. D. Ammidown, well known to the public, who still continues his active agency in promoting public enterprises and public improvements.

Mr. Ammidown died Jan. 5th, 1825, in the 56th year of his age.

We remember very well LUTHER AMMIDOWN, Esq. a son of Caleb Ammidown, and a senior brother of Calvin. His influence, being always exerted in inculcating industry, enterprise and virtuous habits, he was an active co-operator in promoting the early growth of Southbridge. He was not only systematic, correct, and judicious in all his business transactions, but far-sighted and discreet in those of a public character.

He was extensively concerned for many years in mercantile and agricultural pursuits. Perfectly honest, faithful, and punctual himself, he required the same of those in his employ. If discreet and faithful management as guardian, or in any other capacity, was sought, no individual could be selected more worthy of confidence than Mr. Ammidown. He was emphatically a peace-maker. If contentions arose within the scope of his influence, his friendly interposition was not wanting to produce reconciliation and peace. As we have remarked of his brother Calvin, he was frequently selected as arbitrator to settle controversies between parties. The writer can testify to his solicitude, in this capacity, in various instances, to ascertain the truth and do complete and impartial justice. If he witnessed dishonesty or improper conduct, reproof, though gently administered, was in such a manner as to be felt. His influence was extensive and salutary. Mr. Luther Ammidown also exhibited characteristics, emanating from the paternal stock. Mr. Ammidown was, in person, tall, rather spare, and dignified. His health was delicate. Judicious and methodical in his regi-

men, as in all his concerns, he was able to accomplish a great amount of business. His keen black eye was an index of that intellectual power and capability which were manifest in all his external conduct. Mr. Ammidown was a supporter of the Baptist Society in Southbridge, and with that denomination attended worship. He left for his children a handsome estate, and not only for them, but for all who knew him, an exemplary character.

JOHN AMMIDOWN, the oldest son of Caleb Ammidown, was a worthy man, but of more retiring habits. His pursuits were almost exclusively confined to agriculture. He rarely took a part in public concerns.

## SCHOOLS.

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It will not be denied, that the public instruction of the rising generation, from the first settlement of the town, has received as much attention as the condition and ability of the inhabitants would allow. The provision that has been made for such instruction, clearly manifests, that its importance has been fully realized. The school-house was erected, or some place provided, where children might come together to be taught the rudiments of literature, almost simultaneously with private dwellings. During some years after the incorporation of the town, and afterwards during the Revolutionary war, the privileges thus enjoyed, were unavoidably very limited. We have heard the remark by one—"I attended school two months," of another, "I attended one month," and by another a "fortnight." Realizing their own deficiency, they were resolved that their children should be favored with better advantages. Hence the increasing provisions which were made for the instruction of the young. School books, a little more than a half a century ago, were limited to a very few kinds. Perry's and Webster's spelling books, Webster's Third-Part, Pike's abridged Arithmetic, and the New Testament, composed the catalogue of School books. English Grammar was rarely introduced into the schools, as other branches, more simple, were thought to be more profitable for children, with their circumscribed means of instruction.

The branches of study gradually multiplied, as the terms for schooling were protracted. Morse's Geography and Murray's Grammar made their appearance. Murray's excellent, and, perhaps, unsurpassed system, awakened a lively interest in that branch of study. Teachers were required to be versed in the English Grammar. It has, for nearly half of a century, held a high rank, and been successfully taught in schools. Morse's abridged Geography was introduced into schools about the same time. Dr. Morse is justly entitled to the paternity of Geography in America. His great work, containing a large fund of useful information, was the text-book in academies, for a series of years, in this branch of learning. His geographies have given place to others supposed to be better adapted to schools.

At the early period of which we have been speaking, as the terms of schooling, each year, were short, the limited advantages were, unquestionably, more industriously improved than they are at present. The teachers, in those days, generally gave the questions in arithmetic on the slate, for the pupil to solve. This, he was compelled to ponder upon, and work out, without much light from the teacher. If the question, to the pupil, was enveloped in Egyptian darkness, he must penetrate it, and work out the answer. After he had surveyed it for hours, in every imaginable point of view, and covered his slate again and again with figures, perhaps a glimpse of light might be discovered. Although this was a rigid mode of prying after truth, it was probably wholesome mental discipline.

In those primitive days, the minister of the parish kept himself prepared to impart instruction in the higher branches, and to fit young men for college. Many a young man, without much, if any pecuniary aid from others, by his own persevering efforts, obtained a public education. Illustrious examples of this sort may be cited. John Adams, to avail himself of the means of prosecuting his studies, was occasionally employed in teaching schools. The young man

who thus perseveringly grapples with straightened circumstances, may not become so distinguished as Mr. Adams, but will act his part well through life. This remark we are sorry to believe is more applicable to former times, than to the present. A redundancy of money exerts a deleterious influence on the mind, as well as body, of many a young man. Instances of this sort, are too obvious, and too numerous, not to be felt with regret.

The statute of 1788 was an important act, in relation to primary schools. It placed them on a firm basis. Fisher Ames, having commenced his brilliant career, led the way in procuring this enactment. He was, through life, not only a distinguished patron of literature, but an active promoter of the education of the young.

Not only pecuniary provision was made to carry out effectually this act, but other auxiliary measures were adopted. The clergymen were considered, *ex officio*, supervisors of schools. This town has ever been highly favored in this respect. We call to remembrance the Rev. Mr. Lane, the Rev. Mr. Leonard, and their successors in both societies, (the most of whom are still living,) who have exerted their influence in promoting the prosperity of schools. Mr. Leonard labored not only as a pastor, but, for some years, as a teacher of schools, and an instructor of young men, in preparing them for college. Rev. Dr. Bond was unwearied in his efforts to promote the improvement of the young. He prepared, with much labor, a series of lectures, which were designed more especially for young men. Not only the young men, but a great portion of the inhabitants generally, turned out to hear these lectures. Their influence, like leaven, is felt to this moment. A committee was chosen, yearly, by the town, to visit schools, in connection with the clergymen. This committee usually visited the schools but once in the year, and that was at the close of the winter term. All the parents of each district, with very few exceptions, attended,

when these visits were made. The influence was cheering and salutary on the children. The acts which have since been passed, are a confirmation of this practice, requiring the visits to be more frequent. In regard to government and discipline, there has been a change, which is considered to be an improvement. It is a dictate of humanity that corporeal correction should not be practised, excepting in cases where subordination absolutely demands it. The observance of judicious rules, in a common school, is as necessary to promote its high end, as in any other useful institution. When this fails, a pernicious moral influence is the unhappy result. From long observation, we believe there has been more deficiency in point of discipline, than in any other particular.

We find, that soon after Leicester Academy was chartered, which was in 1784, Sturbridge furnished the Institution with a liberal share of the pupils. Prominent among them, were the children of the Newells, the Paines, the Marceys, the Coreys, the Plimptons, the Allens, the Curtises, the Fiskes, and the Hardings. Many of them became distinguished in public life. Such facts evince a laudable spirit, and a laudable attention to early instruction. It will be noticed, as an era of memorable distinction, in the life of Col. Crafts, that he was the founder of Leicester Academy. As trustee of that Institution, he was succeeded by Gen. Newell.

The common school is designed to prepare, in elementary instruction, the great body of the community, for the everyday business transactions of life, and to lay the foundation for other useful information. For this purpose, it embraces every class of the community, excepting the learned professions, and those whose pursuits may require more scientific knowledge than is to be acquired in the common school. The common school is sufficient to accomplish an object so expansive in its contemplations. The elementary branches taught, are reading, pronunciation, orthography, writing,



arithmetic, geography, and English grammar. A thorough knowledge of these branches is sufficient for the purposes above stated. There is no period, or condition in life, in which there should be contentment with present literary attainments. The common school is also designed to inculcate those moral and religious principles, which are intended to mould the character for individual and social happiness. The more its high purposes are contemplated, the more we are impressed with its importance, and with the foresight, and wisdom of our ancestors.

On the common school, rests, in no small degree, the perpetuity of our republican government. One of the principal securities of despotism, is the ignorance of the community. Very closely allied, are science and rational liberty. They mutually support and perpetuate each other. Rational religion and rational devotion reject all communion with ignorance. Ignorance, instead of being the "mother of devotion," with much more propriety, can be called the mother of superstition and persecution. She has been one of the powerful agents in fattening the soil with the blood of martyrs. It must always be borne in mind, that to *learn how to get a living*, is one of the most essential branches of education.

The primary school has its appropriate sphere of usefulness. The Sabbath School contemplates another indispensable department of instruction. Both are in a manner hardly perceptible in their operation, working out momentous results, and are the strongest securities of civil liberty. The chief Book for the Sabbath School is the Bible, the inexhaustible fountain, the infallible source of wisdom. The contemplation of its priceless and sublime truths can hardly fail of exerting a happy influence on the youthful mind, designed to shape its course unerringly through this world, and upward to a state of endless fruition.

As the Sabbath School has, for a period of more than thirty years, been exerting an important and extensive in-

fluence on moral and religious character, we subjoin a sketch in relation to its origin and progress. Robert Raikes, of Great Britain, is entitled to the honor of its paternity. Like leaven, its influence has been noiselessly at work, developing the most salutary effects. The commencement of a school of this kind in Sturbridge, bears date about the year 1820. A few children were collected together, during the intermission, on the Sabbath, arranged in classes with teachers, and recited short lessons from the Bible and catechism, which they had committed to memory.

The school gradually increased in numbers and interest, from year to year, until it presented a systematic organized establishment. Question books, to render the instruction more methodical, and libraries, to increase the interest, were introduced. When it was not convenient for the children to attend in the church, Sabbath Schools were held in the remote parts of the town. Lay members of the churches, in the Brookfield Association, were appointed to visit the schools throughout the Association once a year. This arrangement was very successfully practised several years. Improvements may unquestionably be still made in Sabbath School instruction. The young, possessing so many inviting attractions, will always, in an enlightened community, enlist a deep interest.

## REMARKS UPON FOREST TREES, BURYING GROUNDS, HIGHWAYS, &c.

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Forest trees claim our particular attention. They present not only scenery grand and beautiful in a countless variety of forms, but are indispensable for support and comfort. When their value is fully realized, there is little danger of bestowing too much attention on their growth and preservation. Forty years ago, the supply of wood for fuel, and other necessary purposes, was abundant. From that time to the present, the quantity has been reduced more than half, and the price more than doubled. The great blow of 1816, prostrated many of our best wood lots. The land of most of them has been converted to other uses. This, together with the increased demand for fuel and lumber, is one cause of the great reduction. We may add, a want of due care in its preservation, as another. At the period above mentioned, good hard wood, at the door, might be purchased, at eight and nine shillings per cord. We must be allowed to say, that the ax has been a little too freely used to be consistent with economy and judicious husbandry. We are not aware, that a remark of this sort is applicable to the management of our farms in other respects. There seems to have been an impression, that there was no danger of diminishing the growth of wood too much. Although the best timber has been cut off, judicious manage-

ment will do much towards restoring a necessary supply. Observation has taught us, that much of our thin soil cannot be more profitably used, than by allowing a new growth to spring up, after the wood has been cut off, and continuing it as a wood lot. It has been remarked that a young growth shoots up rapidly, on this kind of land. In cutting the large trees, where it is not intended to clear the lot, great care should be observed, in regard to the saplings or young trees. Who has not noticed with regret the unnecessary havoc and waste resulting from a want of due care? The destruction of a portion of the young trees, is sometimes almost inevitable. We remember very well, even when wood was plenty, the caution that was observed, in this particular, by some farmers. Every young tree, especially, if handsome, must stand unharmed. The cattle were forbidden to make any depredations in wood lots. We would further remark as it respects home use, and the market for the sale of wood, more of our land may be converted into wood land, and a sufficiency remain for tillage and pasturage. Who is not gratified, in witnessing a neat thrifty wood lot, and rambling an hour, occasionally, in a forest? How congenial with delightful and sublime meditations?

The former variety of trees in our forests, mostly, if not entirely, still exists. We have five or six species of the oak, two of the maple, two of the ash and the chestnut, two of the walnut, two of the birch, the elm, the butternut, the pine, and some others. The oak furnishes materials for three very valuable purposes—viz: for fuel, for building, and for tanning. The same may be said of the hemlock. The rock-maple was formerly, principally depended upon for sugar and molasses. The walnut, chestnut, and butternut superadd materials very acceptable at our firesides and social interviews. Nuts and apples were the principal treats at neighborly visits, in early times. The pine is a tree of beautiful symmetry, and, as an evergreen, almost unrivalled. The rock-maple, having a luxuriant and rich fo-

liage, is an excellent shade tree. The upland ash is a neat symmetrical tree, of beautiful foliage. The elm is the monarch of our ornamental trees. Those, in the center village, must be almost coeval with the first settlement of the town. Generation after generation has witnessed them still expanding and towering in stately grandeur. There let them stand in their increasing greatness, the noble inheritance of many future generations.

Good taste, comfort, and pleasure, demand increased attention to ornamental trees about our houses, and in our villages. They are the beautiful decorations of nature, and always attract with pleasure the notice of the traveler and visitor. Trifling, indeed, is the expense of such rich and durable ornaments. Highly commendable is the prevailing taste, in thus beautifying the depositories of the dead. How congenial with the feelings is the beautiful and refreshing grove, and how suitable to those hallowed spots, where we love to linger and revive sweet, though mournful recollections, of those quiet sleepers. The grove seems to shelter them from the angry blasts and raging tempests. It is well calculated to foster, and perpetuate the best feelings of our nature, as well as the endearing remembrance of relatives and friends.

The old burying ground in Sturbridge is one of those cherished spots of remembrance. It contains the ashes of those hardy pioneers, who first laid the ax at the roots of an unbroken forest. The changes through which they passed, their joint toils and conflicts, their joys and sorrows, must have rendered their homes, and the very soil, peculiarly dear to them. This was the spot selected and prepared by them for their final resting place. There rest Mr. Dennison, and his worthy companion, the first female born in town. There sleeps Col. Marcy, who was the most prominent man in the first organization of the town. There rest from their labors the Rev. Nathan Rice, the Rev. Joshua Paine, and the Rev. Otis Lane, the three first settled

ministers of the parish in Sturbridge. There sleep very many of that band of sterling and self-denying men, who fought and bled, not only for themselves, but for posterity. There lie many of the original settlers, who were, no doubt, worthy and industrious townsmen, without a monument to designate their sleeping dust. Let it remain a hallowed spot, untouched by the hand of violence. Let the evergreen be a perpetual emblem of the freshness with which their memories are cherished.

The *new* burying ground, (so called,) was purchased by the town in the year 1826, or 1827. As to its situation, and the nature of the soil, it is a pleasant and desirable locality for the mansions of the dead. Many repose there, who, a few years since, mingled with us in the busy scenes and social endearments of life. They are remembered as venerated men, as fond parents, as companions united by the most tender relation, and as children, very dear to the parental heart. How desirable that a spot, so often alluring thither our hearts and footsteps, should be made increasingly attractive by appropriate beauties of nature and art? There reposes the Rev. Zenas L. Leonard, the first settled minister of the Baptist society, in Sturbridge. There lie the remains of the venerated Dr. Jacob Corey, the elder. This ground is beautified with many handsome and well wrought monuments, reviving afresh names and worth not to be forgotten. The *old* burying ground carries us back to scenes, events, and characters, of which we are attempting an additional memorial; the *new* more forcibly reminds us almost daily, that we shall soon be the companions of inanimate dust.

#### REMARKS ON HIGHWAYS.

The Worcester and Stafford Turnpike-Road was completed in 1812. It proved, for a series of years, to be of public utility. A route was opened by it from the east to

the south, through the center of Sturbridge. Stage-coaches well sustained by passengers ran daily each way, conveying the United States mail. During the war of 1812, (so called,) it was a great thoroughfare for the transportation of the munitions of war. Here might be seen, at all times of the day, the huge Pennsylvania team, bearing a load almost sufficient to freight a common sloop. Nor was it uncommon to see Kentucky horsemen, performing on horse-back, a journey of hundreds of miles. It is a little marvelous, that the discovery had not been made, even at the late period when this road was located, that it is much easier to master a hill by a circuitous, than by a direct course over its summit. This road is a striking illustration of the old theory, now exploded. Perhaps we may account for it, in some degree, on the ground, that the course of our ancestors was always upward. Modern obstacles would not have been regarded as such by them. There is no doubt, that an undulating high-way is favorable, both as it respects the fatigue and durability of the animal. It must be conceded that the change, in this respect, is an important improvement. The abundance of travel, on this road, gave to the central village, as well as to many others, an air of thrift and enterprise. The public-house, in the center of the town, was well patronised, for a long period, and a profitable establishment. About the year 1812, Messrs. Durt and Merrick succeeded Abijah Brown, as keepers of this house, and they were succeeded by D. K. Porter, Esq. and Mr. Porter, by Mr. Cromwell Bullard. All these gentlemen had an interest in the stages. This interest, in connection with the avails of the house, rendered the concern profitable, and was conducted in an acceptable manner to the public. The establishment furnished a profitable market for the farmers.

The new highway from the center, to Southbridge, shunning Fisk-Hill, was built in 1829, at an expense, a little exceeding \$5000. It has evidently been a great public improvement. The traveler, for a little more ease, foregoes

the pleasure of an admirable landscape, spread out before him, in passing over Fisk-Hill. Within twenty years, the highways have been greatly improved, in changes of location and mode of construction. The public begin to be aware that practical skill is requisite to repair, or make a good road.

The introduction of rail-roads left a multitude of the country villages in rather a discouraging state of business. This has been their effect on the center village of Sturbridge and vicinity, but an enterprising spirit will gradually overcome such discouragements. It does not follow, because this great change has operated thus unfavorably, for a while, at least, on particular localities, that it will not prove a great public benefit. The effect of rail-roads is, not only greater dispatch, and less expense in travelling and transportation, but an equalization of the value of the products and resources of the country, and a more familiar acquaintance with its various parts. Equality, in value of the products of the country, is compatible with the general good. The more familiar the acquaintance with the various interests of the country, the safer, and easier the transaction of business; and we may confidently calculate, the more secure the Union. By this great change the permanent wealth of the country is greatly enhanced. Indiscreet locations there unquestionably have been. They have multiplied faster than the interests of the country have warranted.

#### MINERALS.

An extensive bed of plumbago, in the southerly part of the town, is worthy of notice. The grounds, containing this mineral, are owned by Mr. Tudor of Boston. The mine has been considerably wrought, and has undoubtedly been a source of profit to the proprietor. From ten to twenty hands are usually employed. This spot has attractions for



visitors; not for its beauties, for it has none, but for what is totally of an opposite character. Here the visitor may wend his way through long, dark and deep avenues, wrought out by the miners, under pendent rocks, rough, and as ragged as he can possibly imagine, every moment threatening his destruction.

Soon after the working of the mine was in progress, two young men were killed, and several others injured by the caving in of an immense mass of rocks. No serious accident has since occurred. The process of obtaining the lead, is by breaking the rocks in pieces, where it is found in strata, or veins. Not unfrequently masses of pure lead are found, weighing ten, twenty, and sometimes fifty pounds. Since Mr. Tudor has been the owner, the quantity obtained, for twenty years in succession, has averaged about twenty tons annually. There is another mine of plumbago in Sturbridge, on the farm of Capt. Lyman Morse. It is probably extensive, and judging from the polish it gives to stoves, it is of superior quality.

Some years since, iron oar was dug to some extent, and made a business of some profit. It is now suspended, if not abandoned.

This town is well supplied with stones and rocks for the constructing of fences, bridges, and the necessary purposes of buildings.

The greenstone, said to be one of the most durable kinds of rock, abounds in the south-westerly part of the town. The time may come when they may be brought more extensively into use.

Few towns are more highly favored, with rills, brooks, and ponds, than Sturbridge. Sturbridge has not less than five ponds of various sizes, and conveniently located for the inhabitants, in the several sections of the town. They yield an abundant supply of choice fish, at all seasons of the year. The trout is found in many of our brooks. These ponds are beautiful sheets of water, surrounded by forests

and rural scenery. It was formerly a custom of the inhabitants, on certain days in the Autumn, to gather about these ponds to enjoy a season of festivity and amusement. Pork, fish, green corn, crackers and cider, composed the bill of fare. Although not much particularity was regarded, in preparing them for the palate, nothing could relish better. These festivities were seasoned with toasts, jokes, and an abundance of other sorts of pleasantry. After the enjoyments of the table were closed, some exhibited their adroitness in swimming, some in pitching quoits, and all as their fancy dictated. All quit, at a seasonable hour, much gratified. This gathering was called, a *Squantum*; a name, no doubt, of Indian origin, and, in sound, very much in keeping with the character of the occasion.

Something must be said of the Quineboag, of which we feel some degree of pride. Although a small river, it is not surpassed in beauty and utility. Taking its rise in Union, it flows along in a meandering course, through Holland, a corner of Brimfield, through the width of Sturbridge, forming the boundary, some distance, between Sturbridge and Southbridge, and the boundary between Southbridge and Charlton, and Southbridge and Dudley. It then enters Connecticut, passing down a delightful valley, until it mingles its waters with the Thames. Its whole extent is about sixty or seventy miles. It furnishes a number of water privileges in Holland, one in Brimfield, not less than four in Sturbridge, eight or ten in Southbridge, and others, almost in an equal proportion through Connecticut. Throughout its whole length, the greatest portion of these excellent water privileges is now occupied by mechanical and manufacturing establishments, beautified with almost countless villages, where the hum of industry and the spirit of enterprise constantly meet the eye and ear. All this has been accomplished within about forty years. It would be a gratifying result to ascertain the number of persons employed, and the amount invested in these establishments.

It is believed, it would fully confirm our assertions in relation to the utility of this river. The industrious foreigner, as well as the American, finds encouragement for industry.

In regard to the scenery of this river, it is not of that bold and imposing grandeur which is beheld with admiration on some of our large rivers, but its beauties are of a milder aspect. The admirer of such scenery, will find himself richly rewarded in surveying what even this river presents. He may behold it now skirting, in a meandering course, an overhanging forest; now stealing its way through a dense grove; now gliding along through a verdant valley; now dashing over beds of rocks; then falling over dams, exhibiting resplendent sheets of pearls, and constantly varied, and varying in its progress. The painter may here find ample scope for the ingenuity and skill of his pencil. We could designate among many, a charming retreat below Col. Wight's mills. It exhibits a delightful view of blended water, meadow and forest scenery. After one has been overwhelmed with the grandeur of the cataract, it is a grateful transition of the feelings to turn the eye on a scene like this.

How admirably has the Creator adapted his works, not only to the support and convenience of man, but to the highest gratification of his imagination. If Sturbridge and Southbridge are surpassed by many towns in the Commonwealth, in fertility and productiveness of soil, they have few rivals in rural scenery.

## AGRICULTURE.

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No one doubts that agriculture, and whatever is connected with its improvement, is of the first importance. Its origin is commensurate with the primeval existence of man. It has flourished in a greater, or less degree, according to the state of civilization. Human subsistence, and the results of every useful enterprise, are chiefly indebted to, and dependent upon this interest. Wherever it has prospered, the other departments of useful industry have generally, if not uniformly, been in a correspondent degree of prosperity. Although the Roman nation, in its palmy days, was emphatically a military people, adding conquest to conquest, Agriculture was deemed of too much consequence to be neglected. Her matchless bard could sing in lofty and thrilling strains, of the exploits of heroes, and of the mighty work of founding a nation ; and in numbers equally moving, of rural life, of the arts of the husbandman, and of the manner of treating mother earth, to enable her to be fruitful. Cincinnatus, a name almost as familiar to us as one of our brightest sons, could cheerfully resign the highest public trust, to literally follow the plough. The same may be said of many an illustrious Roman commander. It was to them no less honorable to wield the plough than the sword. The example was powerful in its influence. We have an example still more illustrious, in our own Washington. Who does not know that it was his cherished desire to quit

the highest public responsibilities, to attend to the cultivation of the soil? We have also our Webster, the Marshfield farmer, as well as the pre-eminent statesman and jurist. He loved the farm, and to be among flocks and herds. The occupation of the farmer is not only honorable, but preferable to all others in promoting health. Observation has established the fact of its superiority for health, and a vigorous physical constitution. The farmer is not at all particular, in regard to his diet, or in any fear that his digestive organs will not faithfully and ably perform their appropriate functions. Rarely is he annoyed with dyspepsia and its brood of evils.

During the French, and more especially during the Revolutionary war, very little progress was made in agricultural improvements. The struggles for conquest, and especially for independence, rendered the neglect of agriculture inevitable. As soon as the soldier's armor could be safely put off, the implements of husbandry were cheerfully resumed. The soil, but recently in its virgin state, required less additional nutriment to render it productive. The implements of husbandry were then limited in kinds, and in a rude state of workmanship. Most of the farmers, with a little aid from the blacksmith, were their own manufacturers of the utensils for husbandry. The workmanship of the plough, and the cart requiring more skill, was a more exclusive occupation. Necessity compelled them to turn their hands to such diversity of labors. This necessity developed ingenuity, and prepared them for improvements. They were not satisfied with the old beaten path. They well knew there was meaning in the homely saying, "a jack at all trades is skillful in none." Hence the various branches of mechanism became gradually separate pursuits; and great improvements were the result. The ax, sixty years ago, although it possessed very little beauty, or symmetry, performed wonderful execution in the hands of our ancestors. Ten cords of wood a day, in the forest, was not

an unusual day's work. Modern wood-choppers would feel quite satisfied with themselves, if they performed half as much. The pitchfork, now in use, is a brilliant, well proportioned instrument. A stick, with a natural crook, was formerly selected for a scythe snath. It was heavy, and uncouth in its appearance. Now we have the well proportioned, handsomely wrought instrument. Notwithstanding the improvements, so well adapted to degeneracy in physical strength, our ancestors would overmatch us in the amount of labor performed, even with their implements. Hence improvements in utensils of this sort, have become doubly necessary.

The plough holds the first rank in point of importance. Its indispensable and extensive utility gives it superior claims on ingenuity for improvement, to any other instrument. We remember that three and four yoke of oxen (not quite twelve, as in the days of Elisha) were required for the old breaking up plough. A specimen of the old breaking up plough, made in 1780, is now in the possession of Col. David Wight. The first owner was his grandfather, David Wight. Dimensions—beam, 6 1-2 feet, handles, 5 1-2 feet, mould board, 3 inches thick, and 2 feet 2 inches in length. The handles at the ends, spread 3 feet. The bottom of the coulter unites with the point of the share. All wood, excepting the coulter and share. It now appears to be perfectly sound. At the ploughing match in 1850 or 51 in this town, it was brought out from its place of retirement to the field of competition, drawn by two yoke of oxen, and held by a colored man, by the name of Samuel Welden, upwards of 80 years of age. It was highly gratifying to the venerable old man, to show how furrows were cut sixty years ago. Comparing this plough with those of the present day, the contrast is a striking illustration of the improvement in this implement.

Sturbridge contains a variety of soil. Some portions of it, strong and productive, other portions light, but more fea-

sible. It has ever required industry, which has characterised the people of Sturbridge. A sufficiency of wheat, for nearly a century, was raised in town to supply the inhabitants. When they could be abundantly supplied from abroad, with flour, at five or six dollars per barrel, it was found to be more profitable to cultivate something else in lieu of it. The present price, eleven and twelve dollars, per barrel, should it long continue, may induce them to resume the cultivation of wheat. The flour produced from our soil, would not suffer in comparison with any from abroad, in point of flavor, or richness. Our light soil is very well adapted to the growth of rye, and for the labor bestowed, yields a generous crop. The same may be said of indian corn and potatoes. Since the occurrence of the unaccountable blight, the potatoe has been much less affected by it on this kind of soil. The cause of this disease has hitherto baffled all investigation, and has greatly reduced the crop, during eight or ten years past. For two or three years last past, it has been less destructive in its ravages, although the potatoe the present year, 1854, in Sturbridge, is one dollar per bushel. Within thirty years, they have been sold as low as 12 1-2 cents per bushel. The usual price, before the appearance of this destroyer, was twenty five cents per bushel. The crop of oats has fallen below what it was twenty-five, or thirty years ago. The cause demands scientific investigation. The crop of indian corn on the same quantity of land, although more manure is required, is equal to what it formerly was. The farmer begins to realize that his profits depend, not so much on the extent of his fields, as on cultivation. This will become more and more a practical truth. It is obviously a waste of time to cultivate two acres of land, when almost equal profits might be obtained from one. The hay from our uplands has not depreciated in quality, but it is not so in regard to the product of our meadows, in quality and quantity. Most of them were formerly richly clad with foul

meadow, a kind of grass which made valuable hay. This grass formerly so luxuriant, in the valley of the Hobbs brook, has in this locality greatly diminished, but not so much so as in other parts of the town. These meadows have a rich bottom, and are capable of being again made very productive. The value of meadow mud for manure, is beginning to be realized.

The land in Southbridge, for all agricultural purposes is superior to that of Sturbridge. For the dairy, for fattening cattle, and for tillage, it takes the lead of Sturbridge. Sturbridge stands well in regard to butter. As it regards the flavor, the grass of our light pasture land is quite as favorable as any other. We may with propriety, say the same of those who have the charge of the dairy. As it respects swine, whether the pork barrel be consulted, or the market, Sturbridge, from early days, has uniformly held a respectable standing. If the pork barrel by some unlucky occurrence, becomes empty, the fact is carefully concealed. A commendable pride is manifested here in showing handsome well fattened swine. This animal, if he has generous treatment, never fails to be equally generous in the returns he makes. He not only constitutes an essential part of the viands of the table, but gives them all an agreeable zest. He also performs his part well in aiding the products of the garden, the fruitery, and the cornfield. His liberty is very much more restrained than in former days, which is, in every respect, a commendable improvement.

Formerly the sheep was considered as indispensable as the swine, the ox, and the cow. Our pastures were every where decorated with this useful animal. It is not so now. Here and there we occasionally witness a small group of the descendants of these ancient settlers, which performed so generous a part in feeding and clothing our fathers. A flock of unmixed native sheep, would be a welcome curiosity. The introduction of a new race, has rendered our wardrobes more beautiful, but not more substantial, or du-



table. As an element for food, the old stock has the preference. Soon after the change, which commenced between thirty and forty years ago, sheep were multiplied more than ten-fold. Some of the farmers could number their hundreds. In many instances the growth of sheep claimed almost his exclusive attention. Extremes of this sort are generally of short duration. Now, as before remarked, sheep have almost disappeared among us. Whether they can be profitably increased, is a question for the farmer to settle. Our hills and valleys have lost some of their most inviting attractions since they have been so greatly diminished. The same may be said of our tables. The delicious, well fattened mutton is now a rare gratification. It formerly held a place on the table equal to the choicest beef.

We are informed by Dea. John Phillips of this town, and Dr. Hamant of Union, that an Agricultural Society existed in this town about the commencement of the present century. The Rev. Z. L. Leonard was president, and David Wight Jr. Esq. secretary, during some period of its existence. Dea. Phillips, Oliver Plimpton Esq. Abner Lyon, Josiah Walker, and Nathaniel Walker, are remembered to have been members of this society. It held meetings to confer together in relation to agriculture. It is also remembered that one of the questions for consideration, was the quality and kind of seeds, and for what products the soil was best adapted. There is no doubt, their investigations embraced whatever is connected with agriculture. How long it was in operation we are not informed. Allusion is here made to it, to show the early and continued interest uniformly manifested in this all important branch of industry. The clergyman, as well as the layman, was, at that period, a practical farmer. An anecdote, somewhat pithy, is related of the Rev. Mr. Paine and his hired man. Mr. Paine liked to see business move on briskly. He went to the field where his man was hoeing, and a little too moderately, as Mr. Paine thought. The man had commenced,

and made some progress in his row. Mr. Paine commenced another, soon reached, and soon distanced him. The man cried out to Mr. Paine, who was moving on with wonderful speed, "*Mr. Paine!*" Mr. Paine suddenly stopped and inquired what he wanted. The man exclaimed, "IF YOU CHEAT THE CORN, THE CORN WILL CHEAT YOU." Mr. Paine afterwards, in speaking of this trivial occurrence, said it was a profitable lesson to him. He was very well aware, in endeavoring to set his workman an example, he himself had "cheated the corn."

It is probable this society was organized soon after the incorporation of the first Massachusetts Agricultural Society, which was in 1792.

The Worcester County Agricultural Society was incorporated in 1818.

The payment of \$5 constituted membership. Individuals from most, if not all the towns in the County, became members. The interest manifested at the first Cattle Show in the town of Worcester, promised success and utility to the enterprise. This interest has been well sustained up to the present time. The exhibitions, in the various departments of agriculture, have been constantly increasing, each succeeding year. It enabled farmers and other gentlemen to become better acquainted with each other, and with the state of agriculture throughout the County. Distinguished individuals from abroad encouraged it by their presence. The ploughing match, and other exercises of the team, have uniformly excited a lively interest. At these shows, the visitor is gratified with a view of a great variety of choice animals, not only of our own County, but from other portions of the state. Here also he witnesses a large collection of agricultural implements, and each succeeding year some new specimens of ingenuity. Here too are the fabrics of our cotton and woolen mills, which will not suffer in comparison with foreign skill. Here, in short, are the countless varieties of products from our fields, gardens and fruiteries.

The prosperity and influence of this society may be traced, in a high degree, to the exertions of the present Gov. Lincoln. The late Gov. Lincoln, his father, was the first president of the Society. He was an extensive land-holder, and encouraged agriculture by his practical example. He was familiarly called, "*Farmer Lincoln*," a title which he no doubt valued as highly as any which the Commonwealth and his Country had conferred upon him. The present Gov. Lincoln, succeeded his father as president, and held the office we believe, more than twenty years. He infused into the society his own energetic spirit, and was, in truth, the master spirit of the society. It is probable that neither father, nor son, felt a deeper interest in the various other high trusts to which they were elevated than in this.

The commencement of the present Sturbridge Fair, was a gathering of the farmers and others in the Autumn of 1842, for the purpose of awakening more interest in husbandry and the mechanic arts. They brought together their best oxen and other handsome animals. The Show was imposing, and to many new, and excited a gratifying curiosity. It was a pleasant occasion for examination and remarks, in relation to the qualities of the various animals. It passed off so much to the satisfaction of all present, as to encourage another attempt the next year. The succeeding year it assumed a more systematic organization. A desire was soon manifested in the adjacent towns, to unite with Sturbridge, in promoting the interest of the Fair. Here we would make the gratifying remark, that the several towns united in this enterprise, have advanced harmoniously together, cheerfully encouraging and sustaining it. A requisite number of officers were appointed, and other suitable regulations were made. Simon A. Drake was the first president, and the Rev. Mr. Cutting of Southbridge delivered the first address. By the third year, it had all the forms and arrangements of a regularly organized Agricultural Society. A department was provided to receive spe-

cimens of the dairy, of the productions of the field, the garden, the frutery; also of the manufactory, the mechanic arts, and the handi-work of the ladies. To the ladies, the remark is due, that they have manifested a laudable spirit, in promoting the prosperity of the enterprise, and in giving it a lively interest by their presence, and the specimens of their ingenuity. Success could hardly be expected, without such cheering encouragement. The name, *Fair*, could not with propriety be applied to the society, without their presence. The profits and quality of the dairy, are also due to their skill and attention. The flavor of the butter in this town and section of country, will not suffer in comparison with that of any other section, not excepting the celebrated Orange County butter. The cow has always held a high rank in sustaining human life. It was a prominent recommendation of the promised land, that it flowed with milk and honey. What is there better adapted to the growth and health of children, than milk? and what more palatable, and nutritious to the adult, than the old fashioned dish of bread, apple and milk? Hence the importance of such treatment to the cow, as will enable her to make generous returns in quantity and quality. There has evidently been, within a quarter of a century, great improvement in the cow, in point of beauty and profit. The man who keeps only one, is not satisfied with mere mediocrity.

Within the same period, much more attention than formerly has been paid to the size, symmetry, training, and especially to the matching of oxen. In New-England, the labors of the ox on the farm are indispensable. This docile, noble animal is entitled to kind and liberal treatment in the pasture, in the stall, and in the performance of his useful labors. Harsh and violent treatment, in discipline, is rarely necessary. The skillful and humane teamster avoids it if possible. The same remark is applicable to the horse, even if he be restive and refractory. The ploughing match is an attractive part in the Show, always gathering a large circle

of curious spectators; it exhibits the skill of the ploughman as well as the training of the team. Exercise on the cart, requiring more muscular power, equally develops the training. In the contest, care should be strictly observed that the animal is not urged beyond his strength. This is especially to be regarded, as all the exercises of the team are exciting. The preparation of the animal, for competition of this sort, is a preparation for general utility. The figure and general appearance of oxen, are objects of curiosity and particular attention at the public shows. Hence we may calculate on the advantage to be derived from them in this branch of industry. A selection of the choicest animals, in point of beauty and profit, is always made for exhibition. The effect is a laudable spirit of rivalry, excited and kept in lively exercise by the annual return of the public exhibitions.

The horse, uniting great beauty with qualities for extensive usefulness, holds an elevated rank in the family of domestic animals. It may be doubted, whether in this respect, he has a superior. He performs his part faithfully and nobly for men in all the varied conditions of life. He is the pride of the man who moves in state, as well as the humblest individual. The principal use of the horse, for more than a century after the settlement of this country, was for the saddle. Qualifications for this purpose were chiefly sought. Long journeys were performed by both sexes on horseback. The horse was a brave, and an indispensable co-helper in the achievement of our independence. Thrice arduous would have been Washington's task without his trusty steed.

What more attractive, than a cavalcade, or a company of cavalry performing its evolutions in martial style? Without the presence of this majestic animal, the show would be deprived of one of its crowning attractions. The spectacle would be highly gratifying to witness some of our dignified fathers, clad in the costume of their day, moving

gracefully on the horse. If the change in the mode of traveling is more agreeable to ease, it is very doubtful whether it is so as to health and vigor. The horse has not degenerated in size or beauty, although the period of his usefulness is contracted. The price of the horse, the ox and the cow, has doubled within half of a century.

In regard to Horticulture, public exhibitions have exerted a favorable influence in respect to the quality and variety of choice fruit. Formerly, the apple was mostly used for cider. The quality, not thought material for a beverage, was neglected for other purposes. Its principal use now is, as a luxury, and a wholesome nutriment. In this respect, its value is more and more realized. The preparation of the soil, the tree itself, the quality, quantity, and variety, are all receiving more attention. The specimens exhibited at our Fairs, confirms the truth of this remark. They would not discredit any Fair in our County.

What view more attractive than the orchard, in the Autumn, with its varieties of rich and beautiful fruit? The kinds of apples have mostly changed within half a century. The early high-sweeting, which must have been among the first settlers, still holds its standing, in the orchard. The old spice apple, quite common many years ago, and an excellent winter fruit, is now rarely seen. Within a few years, there has been a great increase, in varieties of apples, and a great improvement in the flavor.

The pear is now claiming more attention than even the apple. The varieties, many of which are very delicious, are almost without limit. At one of our Fairs, Mr. Thomas Bond, of North Brookfield, exhibited between seventy and eighty different kinds. Fifty years ago, we do not recollect more than four or five different kinds of pears. A large, late, sweet pear, excellent for baking, was here and there to be found in some rich locality. Thus favored, the tree grew to a large size, and yielded abundantly. Gardner Watkins Esq. had a tree of this kind, which produced, one

year, thirty bushels more than was used in the family, which he sold for one dollar per bushel. The writer remembers very well the tree, and the pears. It may be doubted whether this pear has its superior, after cooked, among all the modern varieties. The cherry, the plumb, the peach and the grape, are claiming increased attention, as not only very grateful to the taste, but as highly ornamental to our dwellings, gardens, and fields. Fruit trees yield a rich compensation for all the labor bestowed. The cultivation of plants and flowers is awakening a more lively interest than formerly. It is a manifestation of good taste, as well as a delightful amusement, to be thus interested in the beautiful displays of nature.

The boundless ways in which Providence is ministering to our support and enjoyment, are a constant appeal to our gratitude. He has connected human industry and human ingenuity with personal and social happiness. This benevolent arrangement the agriculturist daily witnesses and enjoys. The spring cheers him, with its flattering hopes, its countless variety of developing beauties; the summer and autumn with their returning bounties; and the winter with its well stored garner.

Capt. Simeon Hooker and Maj. Jacob Upham, are entitled to the credit of making the first movements in attempting to establish an Agricultural Society in this part of the County. They have continued its active promoters. But to no one is the Society more indebted than to Mr. Luther Hamant, for his unwearied efforts, in promoting its growth and prosperity. He has made agriculture and horticulture his study and pursuit.

This Society was incorporated in the year 1855, by the name of "Worcester South Agricultural Society," including Sturbridge, Southbridge, Dudley, Webster, Oxford, Charlton, Spencer, Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Warren, Brimfield and Holland. Mr. Luther Hamant headed the petition, praying for the incorporation, and vis-

ited the several towns more than once, to encourage the object, and to obtain the required amount to entitle them to an act of incorporation. The sum already raised by contribution exceeds thirteen hundred dollars. Whatever is raised for the benefit of the Society, must be invested according to the provisions of the statute. For every one thousand dollars, so invested, the society receives annually, from the treasury of the Commonwealth, the sum of two hundred dollars, and in that proportion for a greater amount raised, and not to exceed from the Commonwealth, six hundred dollars. The act making provision in this way, to encourage agriculture, reflects credit on our statute book. The appropriation can hardly fail to answer the designed purpose. It is worthy of notice, that there has been a cheering degree of harmony, in promoting the purposes of the society.

In closing our remarks on this subject, we respectfully remind the community of the importance of progressive attainments in this noble science. We especially refer to those who constitute much the largest portion of the population of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode-Island. These states, possessing a vast amount of capital, vested in various kinds of manufacture, and a large portion of their industry, devoted to this interest, may, with great propriety, be called manufacturing states. It is not for a moment to be understood, that this interest should, in its operation, or expansion, be a check, but rather an encouraging stimulus to the prosperity of agriculture. To promote such an object, and to avoid too much dependence on other sections of the country for supplies, the yeomanry in these States should realize the importance of endeavoring to turn their lands to a more and more profitable account. There is no doubt great advancement may be made in this particular. The soil may be made many fold more productive and profitable, than it is at present. New-England has not that exuberant soil which characterizes some parts of our country ;



but she has a soil capable of yielding a generous return for skillful and persevering industry. There is no competition more laudable, and profitable, than that which tends to advance and elevate this all important interest. Its products are designed to meet the claims of necessity, comfort, and enjoyment. Agricultural Societies are exerting a powerful agency in accomplishing such desirable purposes. The man who is making his lands, and his stock more profitable and beautiful, will be sure to awaken a kindred spirit in others. Much of our soil, at the east, has heretofore produced such crops of wheat, as encouraged farmers to bestow particular attention upon its cultivation. We see not why the experiment may not again be tried with success. Even the farmers, at the east, are almost entirely dependent on other portions of the country for flour at this time, 1855, at thirteen dollars per barrel. It is believed their interest will prompt them to attempt to avoid such dependence.

We subjoin a brief statement of some striking improvements made by Dr. Samuel Hartwell, of Southbridge. Some six or eight years since, he commenced a most thorough improvement of a piece of land, lying about half of a mile southerly of the lower village, in Southbridge. The tract, containing about twenty-five acres, had, previous to 1830, been principally occupied as a pasture, yielding but small profits. About twelve acres of the land still remain a pasture. The other portion is divided into lots, for tillage and mowing, and for the production of various kinds of fruit. Seven beautiful lots, enclosed by handsome walls, are appropriated almost exclusively to tillage and mowing. From these lots, the rocks and stones, which were abundant, have been almost entirely removed, and the surface made quite level, where the nature of the ground would admit. The soil, for cultivation, was plowed fourteen inches in depth; viz—seven inches with a sward plow, and seven inches with a sub-soil plow. The Doctor examined,

by experiments, the nature of the soil, and what treatment it required to render it most productive.

The orchard of peach and apple trees, covering a number of acres of land, enclosed also by a wall, is in a very flourishing condition, and contains many kinds of choice fruit. The Doctor has also, in another locality, nearly a hundred thrifty pear trees, which will soon produce an abundance, and many varieties of this delicious kind of fruit. The improvement of the pasture is probably equal to other improvements of which we have spoken. A beautiful road for carriages passes nearly through the land. A very considerable expense has been incurred in making these improvements. Nothing more is now to be done, than to keep the land in its present productive condition. The average, annually, of the whole products of the land, is about six hundred dollars. The cost of labor and manure does not exceed three hundred dollars; leaving a clear profit of three hundred dollars. Experiments of this sort are worthy of special attention. The farmer, in his attempt at improvements, must, of course, govern himself according to his ability. They certainly afford a high degree of pleasure, as well as profit.

The Doctor's example has become contagious in the neighborhood of his land. Others are making similar improvements.

The first Show of the Society, after its incorporation, was on the third day of Oct. 1855. Although the weather, in the morning, was forbidding, the gathering of both sexes, representing the various industrial pursuits, was large.

Amos Felton Esq. the first president, under the new organization, presided.

The Hon. Amasa Walker delivered an address, eminently practical, and well worthy the practical attention of the New-England farmer. The plowing (always commanding particular attention) was considered superior to that of any former occasion. The same may be said of the oxen, and other animals. Since the commencement of our Shows,

there is a striking improvement in all our useful animals. The town-hall exhibited a greater variety of the productions of nature and art, than at any former Fair. We allude to this exhibition, merely to show that public expectation, thus far, has been fully realized in regard to the prosperity and utility of the Society. The public journals, highly to their credit, favor the public with statements, in detail, of the proceedings of Agricultural Societies. The happy influence of those societies is greatly promoted by such encouragement.

## TEMPERANCE REFORMATION.

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As this movement was intended to produce an important change in habits and practices tolerated in the community, a sketch of its early operations may be a useful record. At the period of its commencement, about 1820, ardent spirits were generally and abundantly used among all classes of people. The use had been increasing for many years, and the extent of its use, and its effects, were very far from being fully realized. Such was its insidious and controlling influence, that the community was unconsciously in the broad road to ruin. Ardent spirits were deemed essentially necessary in the revolutionary struggle. It was not easy to discontinue the habit, after the struggle was over. The use was regulated by legal enactments. In accordance with these enactments, public houses and stores were licensed to an almost unlimited extent, to dispense the article. It had become a prolific source of profit to the vendors. Almost every household was provided with a variety of cordials for domestic use, and to meet the demands of civility. Many a cellar was stored with the choicest juice of the grape, and other liquors of more potent influence. The bar-room, the training-ground, the muster-field, the ball-room, the Independence jubilee, always exhibited striking manifestations of its controlling power. Liberality in distributing the exhilarating beverage was an indispensable requirement from the successful candidate for civil, or military promotion.

Even in discharging the last sad rites to the remains of departed friends, its consoling influence was deemed indispensable. The Bar, the Bench, and even the Pulpit, occasionally, had recourse to its power, to render their arguments and persuasions more lucid and impressive. We might enlarge in this way to an almost indefinite extent. The rational use of men's physical and intellectual faculties became strangely suspended, at frequent intervals. This was an alarming phenomenon. Suspicions began to exist, that this derangement of our important functions might be traced to too much latitude given to the appetite. The wider the eyes were opened, the more confirmed men became in these suspicions. The first inquiry was, what must be done to check the evil? The first expedient suggested, was, that moderation must be observed. But this was soon found to be too indefinite, and too mild a corrective. The urgent claims of the appetite could not be curbed by such rational restraint. Hence, something more powerful must be devised. It was reported, that a venerable matron had discovered a sovereign remedy, and that remedy was *total abstinence*. Nothing is clearer, than that this would be an effectual remedy, if carried out. It laid at once the ax at the root of sturdy habits, which required no ordinary power of self denial to subdue. The war must be carried directly into the enemy's camp. Total abstinence soon became the rallying point. Although a standard was raised, bearing such a significant motto, efforts were requisite to secure a triumph. Men were not wanting to embark in the work. Changing a little the style of our remarks, we remember well the effect of two sermons, preached by the Rev. Dr. Hewett of Connecticut, on the Sabbath, in Sturbridge, at the commencement of this reformation. He drew to the life, a picture of the evils of intemperance. Many of our good men were not a little disturbed at what they deemed unwarrantable exaggerations. It however aroused men from their lethergy, and prompted them to

examine the foundation of such bold assertions. The result of the examination was, that the preacher's assertions contained much more truth than fiction. The Rev. Dr. Bond, our then minister of the Congregational Society, embarked in the enterprise with his whole heart. It was characteristic of the man to count the cost before he put his hand to the plough. When once there, his course was *onward*. His influence soon became contagious. Mr. Bond was early in the field, and soon witnessed cheering results from his labors. The Rev. Dr. Vail, then of Brimfield, was an efficient and successful co-worker. We believe the Rev. Dr. Snell was an earlier pioneer. Well known to be a man of superior mental power and forecast, and equally discreet in devising the best mode of checking, or repressing an evil, much was expected from his energies in the enterprise. We were often favored with the zealous and well directed efforts of these men.

Societies were formed on the principle of total abstinence. Meetings were frequently held, and various methods devised to persuade all to become supporters of this principle. The increase of numbers exceeded the most sanguine expectation. It is not to be understood, that accessions were made without correspondent efforts. Many a strong Layman embarked heartily in the enterprise. We could name the Hon. Linus Child, the Hon. A. D. Foster, the Hon. Judge Thomas, then young men, whose addresses made an effective impression. Many a reformed inebriate told the plain, feeling, unvarnished tale of his degradation and recovery. These were some of the agencies employed to arrest the progress of the evil. Gratifying results were constantly developing from year to year. Contrast the present, with the *then* prevalence of the evil, a most cheering change must be the irresistible conviction. Where are the distilleries which were then thickly scattered over the Commonwealth? Where the unnumbered licensed houses? These gratifying results must be ascribed exclusively to the power of per-

suation. No coersive agency was, for many years, employed. It does not follow, that such an agency may not be successfully brought in aid of this enterprise. The idea, however, should not, for a moment, be indulged, that it should supersede, or check persuasive efforts, which have accomplished so much.

It is, beyond a doubt, the duty of every man, when satisfied that habits and practices exist, prejudicial to the prosperity and happiness of the community, to exert his influence to arrest, and, if possible, suppress them. The efforts should be in proportion to the magnitude of the evil. This was viewed, at the period of which we are speaking, after mens eyes were fully opened, to be one of an alarming character; especially as it affected the rising generation. Although the use, at that period, was almost without limits, yet there were some redeeming circumstances which do not now exist. The wine, the brandy, the rum and gin, were then comparatively free from those pernicious ingredients, with which they are now adulterated. The adulteration is, of itself, an irresistible argument against the modern use. The only infallible antidote against the poison, is, "taste not, touch not."

In regard to legislative enactments, there has been a strong desire, from time to time, to make them more effectual. The good which has been accomplished by such coersive measures, has very probably overbalanced the evils attending them. Perhaps there is nothing within the compass of legislation, more difficult to be met, than the subject of our remarks. Experience has rendered this lesson quite familiar. A very small degree of reflection must satisfy any one of the truth of this remark. Habits, long indulged, are stubborn antagonists. It is very much easier to convince the understanding of their pernicious tendency, than to arrest the evil. There is a strong propensity to resort to stimulants, under a great variety of circumstances in life. The profits also from the sale of alcoholic liquors, are temp-

tations which some men will not resist. Each State has a right to regulate matters of this sort in its own way, a circumstance which renders the universality of prohibitory measures, in this particular, almost hopeless. These suggestions are not made, with a view to oppose legal enactments, but merely to show the difficulties of rendering them effectual. The agitation of the public mind, wherever the subject has been brought before the Legislature, evinces a deep conviction of the evils of intemperance, and a strong desire to resort to every feasible agency, to check, if not entirely to suppress it.

The state of Maine, some four or five years since, passed an act containing very stringent provisions against the traffic in alcoholic liquors. This act, commonly called the Maine law, became a subject of very extensive notice and remark. Our Legislature passed an act of similar provisions in the year 1852.

That portion of the act which authorised the seizure and destruction of liquors, was decided by the supreme Court, to be unconstitutional.

The General Court, the present session, 1855, have passed another act more severe in its penalties, than any previous act. The State of New-York has recently passed an act of similar provisions, and penalties. The States of Connecticut, Pennsylvania and some others, have done the same. Present appearance indicates a vigorous struggle, in the execution of these coercive measures.

The prevailing opinion is, that no law ought to exist, which does not meet public approbation to such a degree, that it cannot be effectually enforced. The acts of which we are speaking, if expedient, must claim an exception. No one expects any thing more than a partial execution. They are soon to be fully tested by experiment



## A NEW MOVEMENT TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL.

The year 1810 is a memorable era in the history of this country, in relation to a great moral and religious movement. We allude to the organization of the Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions. Hence sprang into existence a multitude of auxiliary societies. Immediately after the organization, the Brookfield Association, auxiliary to the Board, was formed, embracing the following towns: viz.—Brimfield, the three Brookfields, Charlton, Dana, Dudley, Holland, Hardwick, New-Bramtree, Oakham, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Warren, and Ware. The Rev. Otis Lane, the Rev. Mr. Fay of Brimfield, and a few others, in the year 1812, met at the house of Dea. Daniel Plimpton, and formed the Sturbridge Auxiliary. The aggregate contributed for this noble object, at the disposal of the Board, from year to year, from that time to the present, has principally been made up of small contributions. The tendency of this mode of sustaining the enterprise, has unquestionably been to awaken more uniform and lively interest in it.

This was the commencement of an enterprise which looked forward to the universal extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. An objection, urged against it, on its threshold, was, when our spiritual wants shall have been met at home, it would be sufficiently early to look abroad. This objection was soon silenced by an obviously increased interest in our home wants. The toleration of slavery in some portions of our country, was another objection. These objections manifested a very limited, not to say a selfish view of the subject.

This period is clearly marked with deeper convictions of duty, and more energy of action, in regard to the evangelization of the world. The Redeemer's last command, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every crea-

ture," was more deeply felt, and the apostolic spirit more clearly manifested.

This great movement was commenced with an organized system of action, which had been gradually improving and expanding in its operations. Draw the contrast between the state of the world *then* and *now*, a faint idea may be obtained of what has already been accomplished. A family of co-helpers were almost simultaneously ushered into existence. The Bible Society, the Home Missionary, the Education, the Tract Societies, and many other benevolent associations have advanced, hand in hand, with this great enterprise. It might gratify curiosity to know the amount which has been given, in Sturbridge and Southbridge since 1810, for these benevolent purposes. To ascertain the amount would be an impracticable undertaking. Something, in this way, has been placed to our credit, every succeeding year. We need have no apprehensions that it has been too large, or that it is an unprofitable investment. In our sketches of character, we have noticed some bequests, for these objects. To those benefactors, may be added the name of Harmony Allen. The bequest was her last offering from the fruits of her industry. In connection with this enterprise, the name of David T. Lane deserves an affectionate remembrance. He was the oldest son of the Rev. Otis Lane. To be a missionary, among the heathen, had, for many years been his calculation and desire. He appeared to be eminently fitted for such a destination. Immediately after his collegiate and theological studies were closed, death terminated those desires and calculations. For some time prior to his death, there had been premonitions of that disease, so often attended with hopes and fears. A short time before the close of his life, the disease presented so discouraging an aspect, as to cut off all hope. It seemed to be a mysterious providence to himself, and his many affectionate friends. He calmly and cheerfully acquiesced in the Divine Will. His example, his unwearied unpre-

tending efforts to do good, very many still remember. During ten, or twelve years, he labored incessantly to persuade the young, the middle aged, and the aged, to give their hearts to the Saviour. This was his all-absorbing theme. Whenever and wherever he was employed as an instructor of youth, he was equally assiduous to impart religious and literary instruction. The scholars soon felt the influence of a heart full of desire to promote their highest happiness.

His time in vacations, was principally occupied in visiting families, from house to house, especially those who could not conveniently attend public worship. After visiting in this manner, it was his custom to hold a meeting in the evening. All turned out to hear young Lane speak on the subject of religion. None left with feelings of indifference. An impression had been made which was not soon forgotten. The man who rarely passed the threshold of a church, on the Sabbath, cheerfully attended his meetings. Many an instance of this kind can be cited, and many, in which there is good reason to believe, a saving change was the result. The enquiry is very natural, what gifts did he possess which enabled him to command such fixed attention, and so deep an interest in his exhortations? Not extraordinary powers of intellect, for they were not much above mediocrity. But his, was the eloquence of the heart; feeling deeply the importance of what he uttered. His mind was wholly engrossed in his subject, and expressed with all that earnestness and suitableness of language which his feelings prompted. His exhortations were short, direct and persuasive. When he stopped, all wished to hear him longer. There was an earnestness, in looks and language, which carried conviction that every word was from the heart. It is believed few have accomplished so much in the service of their beloved Master, during so short a career.

The Rev. Otis Lane's second daughter, Mary, married the Rev. Mr. Dwight, the distinguished missionary. Mr. Dwight is stationed at Constantinople, exerting a powerful influence over an extensive field.

## GEN. LA FAYETTE.

A very gratifying event, in our history, was a visit from Gen. La Fayette, in the year, 1824. In this connection, we shall attempt a brief sketch of the character of the extraordinary man, who nobly volunteered his services and fortune, in the achievement of our independence. He belonged to a family of high rank, and was the possessor of an ample fortune. In the year 1777, at the age of 21 or 22, after we had been struggling about two years against an untold amount of difficulties, he quit conjugal endearments, and the flattering prospects of home, to jeopardise his life and fortune with ours, in the conflict. After encountering many obstacles, he reached America. A humble dwelling, situated on Valentine hill, (so called,) on the eastern bank of Hudson river, in the vicinity of Fort Washington, is held in cherished remembrance. In this dwelling, Washington, and this noble volunteer, it is said, first met. The interview must have been one of thrilling interest. Here, Washington welcomed the young foreign adventurer, to a share in the perils and hardships, which must inevitably be met. Mark the difference of the prospects, and the scene, before, and around him, from the splendors of the French Court! He was soon honored with a commission of Maj. General. His career, in detail, would embrace many of the most important events of the revolution. The same spirit which prompted him to embark in the cause of America, marked his unfaltering course in her service. He never shrank from danger, or responsibilities. To notice a single instance; in the battle of Monmouth, one of the hottest, both in regard to the heat of the day, and the desperate struggle of the conflicting parties, we see him braving its dangers.

In this battle, in the presence of La Fayette, the memorable rebuke of Washington was administered to Lee. It

is evident, that Lee, for some cause, was remiss in duty. The division, under his command, was retreating in great confusion, which Washington, who was commanding in another quarter, discovered. He was instantly on the spot, restored order, and turned the retreating troops to the charge. It was at this juncture, the withering reprimand was given. La Fayette, afterwards remarking upon this incident, said, the severity of the reprimand was not so much in the *words*, as in the *look* of Washington.

Washington, in closing, says to Lee, "will you command here, and ronte the enemy?" The instant reply of Lee was, "I will not be the *first* off the field." If Lee had declined the command, Washington intended to give it to La Fayette. Lee, after this, fought bravely, but remembered the stinging rebuke. La Fayette, was not only a co-worker in the field, but in procuring the assistance of France. To accomplish this object, he crossed the ocean several times. He expended a large portion of his estate, to aid the cause of America. He had the command of about 5000 men, and was an efficient co-operator with Washington in the last triumphant result. He was present at the surrender by Cornwallis, on the 19th day of Oct. 1781. The scene must have been a sublime spectacle, exhibiting, on one side, humiliation and deep mortification, and on the other, joy which could not be entirely suppressed. Cornwallis' bearing was gentlemanly and dignified, but the occasion was extremely humiliating to an officer of his lofty spirit.

Washington's deportment, always exhibiting the same great man, was such as the occasion demanded. This event sent triumphant joy throughout the length and breadth of America. It is not our intention to follow La Fayette, with any particularity, through the French Revolution. Being opposed to oppression in every form, he was desirous of improvements in the principles of the French government, and in the condition of the people. He had fought

with us to establish a republican government, and was desirous that principles of a similar character should be incorporated into the French government. He favored their declaration of rights, and the new constitution, which were essentially republican. If he was mistaken in regard to the incompatibility of such a government with the disposition and habits of the French people, he was not alone in the mistake. The American people generally, including many of our distinguished statesmen, favored, and even rejoiced in the change of government which the French had adopted. In England, it was lauded by such men as Fox, Sheridan, and Mackintosh, and very many other men of philosophic and literary distinction. It was hailed with enthusiasm by a great portion of the people of England, and in other nations of Europe. But it made no such impression on the mind of Catharine, of Russia, and a few other despots. They dreaded the prevalence of republican principles. Burke, in a masterly treatise, came out against the French movements, and with a forecast almost prophetic, portrayed the disastrous consequences. He clearly saw that the French nation was very far from being ripe for such a change.

The enthusiasm of the French people soon assumed a terrific aspect, and became as ungovernable as the raging ocean. Law, religion, life, character, property, and every thing that renders life desirable, were totally disregarded. This hurricane of anarchy raged in France more than five years. During this period, her soil was steeped with the best blood of France. History presents few parallels of anarchy, attended with such an effusion of blood, so much violence, and such total disregard of all legal restraints, and every rational and humane principle.

In the early progress of the French revolution, La Fayette was very popular, and almost idolized. He had the command of the National Guards, the highest military rank in France. He exerted his utmost energies to save the

King and Queen from their fatal doom, but to no purpose. As the storm was becoming more and more terrific, he was compelled to seek safety in flight. He was pursued, taken, and thrown into a prison in Olmutz. His devoted wife, by a favorable turn of fortune, made her escape, and found her way to her husband. His property was confiscated. Most of the relatives of Lafayette were victims to the reign of human butchery. During most of that long and dreary imprisonment, his wife was his constant companion. This speaks volumes in her praise. Providence had in reserve another refulgent day for this champion of liberty. He was liberated, after about six years, from imprisonment, if we mistake not, by the instrumentality of Bonaparte. He returned to France, where he was not forgotten. His counsel was sought, and his voice was again heard in behalf of the best interests of his country. At two several periods, he was elected a member of the national assembly. In the Revolution of 1830, he was again appointed General of the National Guards. It is evident that Lafayette's influence at this period was powerful. Napoleon frequently sought his counsel, although Lafayette never compromised his political principles to flatter, or encourage that wonderful man in his course.

In the year 1824, after the lapse of forty years, he revisited the theatre, where, in early life, he had performed so generous a part in behalf of oppressed humanity. The announcement of his intended visit was everywhere received with joy. Children had early learned the name and story of the Marquess Lafayette. When he came, he was received with open arms, not as a triumphant conqueror, but as a triumphant benefactor. It was a universal expression of spontaneous gratitude. All, even to the little child, must see and take Lafayette by the hand. He visited every State in the Union. The people of Sturbridge, invited him, on his way to the South, to favor them with a visit. The request was granted. Such preparations as the occasion

appeared to demand, were made. A tasteful representation of a triumphal arch was erected over the road, where it enters the common, at the north-east, adorned with garlands and pendants. Thence, two rows of shrubbery were extended to the public house. The artillery and a splendid band of martial music were stationed on the meeting-house hill. The gathering, from all the neighboring region, exceeded in number, three thousand. The approach of the cavalcade was announced by the artillery. When it arrived, a large man, plainly dressed, of dignified and venerable appearance, alighted from a carriage. That man was Gen. Lafayette. Very affable, gentlemanly, and of agreeable manners, he manifested some surprise, as well as high gratification, to witness so large a gathering in a small village. Four hours were never passed by those present, which would be remembered with more grateful emotions.

The most touching spectacle was the meeting with his old fellow-soldiers, who, in early manhood, had shared with him the perils and conflicts of our revolutionary struggle. They had taken their position, in military style, by themselves, where the interview took place. Most of them had seen him, and some had been under his command. They related incidents, when and where they were together, which he remembered. Never did reminiscences produce a higher degree of joy. The triumphant result of the mighty struggle was spoken of with the highest satisfaction. They had all become old men. Forty years had passed away since they had terminated together their labors. Well may it be supposed the meeting would be one of the most thrilling interest. What a gratifying change met the eye of the illustrious visitor wherever he went!—a change, in a great degree, to be ascribed to republican institutions. Such universal expression of grateful respect, although attended with a little excess of enthusiasm, is certainly a commendable precedent, and highly creditable to the American character. It was an expression of gratitude for services rarely recorded in the history of human events.



He was attended to this country by his son, George Washington Lafayette, and his private secretary. We are aware that an English author has attempted to throw a shade over the character of Lafayette, in relation to his course, at the commencement, and subsequent progress of the French Revolution. The writer had no partiality for republican principles. It is also very evident he had not forgotten the part Lafayette acted in our Revolution. Under such circumstances, it is hardly to be expected that the pen would be guided by an impartial hand. Surely the life of Gen. Lafayette was an eventful one. His name will be transmitted to posterity in company with that of Washington and other illustrious benefactors of mankind. His sun rose high, in full orb'd splendor, and, if for a time, its pathway was obscured by angry clouds, it went down the same glorious sun, not a spot on its disk.

## VARIOUS CUSTOMS.

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We may have alluded elsewhere to some of the customs, in the earlier portion of our history, of which we are now about to give a sketch. They are no further important than to show the simplicity of manners, and the straightened circumstances of our ancestors.

In respect to travelling and modes of conveyance, carriages were unknown, excepting for farming purposes, and the transportation of burdens which could not be done upon the horse. Walking was the usual mode of reaching the church, on the Sabbath, from two, three, four, five, and in some cases, six miles. The family horse, where there was one, performed his part of this duty, in carrying occasionally, three and four. The husband on the saddle, wife on the pillion, and an offspring in each of their laps, was not an unusual, or an uninviting spectacle. Rarely was the weather, or travelling so forbidding, as to prevent a constant attendance, even when the mercury was at zero, and no other warmth in the church, but what the eloquence of the speaker imparted. No fires in the church, excepting here and there a foot-stove, which the infirm were compelled to use. Six hours was the usual period of the services of the day. In the winter, the day was very nearly spent when the worshipers reached their homes.

We remember a husband and wife, both great amateurs of music, who rode every sabbath to meeting in the manner we have mentioned, carrying on their horse a base-viol and one

of their little ones. Whoever else were absent, they were ready to perform their parts, in the devotions. In the warmest season of the year, the adult males, for the sake of being more comfortable, usually appeared at church without coats and cravats, and the lads without shoes and stockings. The females were dressed in a style equally simple, adapted to the season. Propriety of conduct was required to be observed. The tithing-man knew his duty, and faithfully performed it. The stocks, which were a terror to evil doers, were located in the rear of the church. The boys knew very well for what they were designed, and eyed them with awe. We do not recollect an instance in which this mode of punishment was actually put in execution. There is no doubt, that in the early settlement of New-England, the Sabbath was more strictly observed, and the mind less occupied with secular concerns than at present. The statute, which forbid its profanation, was occasionally enforced, as was also the law against profanity. Those laws, although now rarely aroused from their slumbers, may, notwithstanding, exert a feeble influence in checking vice. Marriages were then, as at the present time, a custom which was strictly observed. The intention of carrying this custom into effect, was proclaimed with an elevated voice, immediately after the close of divine service. The tendency of such a proclamation was to neutralize, in some degree, serious impressions. Very few in those days thought of evading the law, which provided for the support of public worship. The support of the gospel has now become entirely a matter of conscience. Whether the change, in this respect, is favorable to moral and religious influences, we shall not hazard an opinion. It is certain that religious institutions have exerted the most efficient agency in making us what we are, in point of moral character. It is also certain, that they cannot be too sedulously patronized and cherished. Withhold from them a competent support, the tendency is to dampen and paralyze that, which is the most valua-

ble to us as social and accountable beings. They possess the power of elevating, or depressing moral and religious character, in proportion to their encouragement, or neglect.

We pass to a custom of the farmers in the season of harvesting. What was called a Husking, was common among them. The corn was severed from the ground, transported to the barn, and placed in a suitable condition for the workmen. A sufficient number was invited to dispatch the work in an afternoon. It was an occasion of merriment and competition, accelerated, at suitable intervals, by the quickening draught. Work and conversation went on merrily together. When the work was finished, a plain, wholesome repast, consisting of meats, pies, bread, cheese, butter and other good things, was in readiness, exhibiting the good taste and culinary skill of those who provided it. It must be understood that the wife and daughters performed the crowning part, on those occasions. By this mutual interchange of labor and hospitality, the greatest portion of the corn was harvested.

Raisings were also considered as an affair of similar interest, followed by an entertainment of good things. A liberal supply of cheering beverage, and a good supper, were a gratifying equivalent for services rendered. Those occasions were generally wound up by feats of wrestlings. A ring was formed for this purpose, and the competition commenced by some of the younger individuals. It was an occasion of intense interest to witness the cautious and adroit movements of two skillful wrestlers, almost equally matched. Every point guarded, and every motion of the competitors watched by each other with the keenest vigilance, and almost equally so, by the spectators. The man of much superior muscular power was not unfrequently foiled by the quick and unexpected movements of his antagonist. The vanquished party turned in his man, and the contest proceeded in this manner, until the last one was proclaimed victor. The tendency of such athletic exercises was to in-

crease physical strength, if not too severely taxed. This was an exercise very much in practice during the Revolutionary war. The ancient soldiers, it is well known, were inured to athletic feats, to increase strength, and the power of endurance. Although it may not be expedient to resume customs of this sort, they furnish valuable lessons, in regard to the discipline of the physical constitution. As we have more than once remarked, in our investigations, the men and the women, in this respect, are not now, what they were three quarters, or even half of a century ago. Daniel Webster's extraordinary mental energies were not cramped, or rendered less useful, by a feeble constitution. It was prepared, in early life, to sustain and give a full display to those wonderful powers of mind.

Endeavoring to give a faithful sketch of customs and practices prevalent, at former periods, we meet with some of a pernicious influence which we feel bound not to pass over unnoticed. Although now in a great measure abandoned, a record of their former existence may be a useful admonition against their repetition. We have particularly, in view, the practice of gambling, especially the playing at cards. This practice had been gradually increasing for some years before the commencement of the present century. It continued to prevail, more and more extensively, till it reached a degree of alarming influence. A very great portion of our public houses, which were formerly numerous, had their recesses for gamblers. Gentlemen, who claimed an elevated standing, had their private retreats for gambling. Gatherings, for this purpose, were not only occasional, but almost nightly. They embraced large numbers of the legal and medical professions.

After the Court had adjourned for the day, many of its ministerial officers were spell-bound to the card table during the night. How admirably fitted such nightly preparations must be, for the faithful discharge of their duties to their clients ! The same may be said of many a legislator,

gravely engaged, or ought to be so, during the day, in framing the laws, and at night winning, or losing his hundreds, at the card table. Gambling was the broad road, in which many a young man, on whom rested parental affection and hopes, travelled to ruin. We have known men who have devoted their whole time to this pernicious practice, travelling even throughout the States, and rifling men of their money, whenever fit subjects to be cheated could be found. They made for a while, a display of wealth and ostentation, but most of them died in poverty. The curse of Heaven blasted their hopes. This evil was not prevalent to any considerable extent among the farming class of the community. Their exemption from it is ascribed in no small degree to their retiring and industrious habits. Gambling, cheating and excessive drinking, are generally leagued together. Such a triple alliance is always arrayed against the best interests of society. A blessed change has succeeded. Men of respectable standing who occasionally indulged in the practice, realizing its pernicious effects have entirely abandoned it. Their example has exerted a powerful influence in suppressing the evil. The practice is now almost exclusively confined to those who have no claims to respectability.

It must be borne in mind, that our ancestors always connected something profitable with their recreations. This was especially the case in reference to the old-fashioned Quiltings. The young ladies gathered at a neighbor's, where something of this sort was to be done, for the use of the family, or for a daughter, who was about to exchange her single condition for one more desirable. Seated around their work, the needles were industriously plied, and the circle cheered with jokes and social chat, till it was finished.

After the task was completed, they were again gathered around the ancient circular table, neatly spread, and abundantly furnished with such plain and wholesome edibles as the farm produced. If the reader could travel back nearly

a century, and desire to witness a group of healthy, blooming, round, and cheerful countenances, he might be gratified with such a scene as such an occasion presented. The quilting was by no means concealed from the young men in the neighborhood. They were there, in due season, clad in their best, and ready to bear a full share in the enjoyment of the occasion. The evening glided imperceptibly away in such social enjoyments as inclination dictated. Would you witness beauty unadorned there it might be seen. Would you see an exhibition of plain hospitality, unaffected civility, and cheerfulness, without extravagance in any of its modern forms, go back to those days of primitive simplicity. After the hour had arrived for concluding the convivialities of the occasion, the company separated by pairing off to their respective places of abode. Quiltings in the sense of which we have been speaking were peculiar to New-England.

Some forty or fifty years ago, our forests abounded with a variety of game. Since that period, it has been gradually diminishing. The gray-squirrel was very abundant, the black more rare. Partridges and rabbits were numerous. Hunting was a favorite amusement for lads and young men. Families could be easily supplied with a variety from the forests, which afforded a very agreeable change for the table. Some families depended mostly on wild game for their supply of fresh meats. The men of those days were expert marksmen. If the squirrel or partridge came within the range of the muzzles of their guns, it surely became a victim. In order to escape the vigilance of his deadly fire, the poor creature would make the utmost efforts to flee, or seek some lurking place for refuge, but it was generally all in vain. A glimpse at any vital part, was sufficient to secure its doom. If not quite dead when it fell to the ground, the eager dog would instantly perform the fatal work.

The partridge was still more shy and vigilant. The utmost caution was necessary to secure her as a victim. If she rose on the wing, her speed was almost a match for lightning. In an unguarded moment, she too, became the victim of the destroyer. The timid hare was instantly overwhelmed with terror at the sight of a human being. The mere *report* of the musket, would frequently lay it prostrate on the ground. Pigeons were very abundant. In an unguarded moment, dozens were instantly ensnared in the meshes of human device. The innocent and beautiful captives were instantly dispatched.

The wily fox, carried out the warfare in manly and noble style, although at fearful odds. Not so with the enemy. Two or three sturdy men armed with instruments of death, and a pack of hounds, were the usual force arrayed against a single, empty-handed fox. What had the poor creature done to arouse such an array of vengeance against him? Perhaps he had helped himself to a little food to satisfy the cravings of nature, not his, according to the laws of his enemy. But the real cause was, to make conquest of his beautiful robe for the sake of little gain. Had the rules of honorable warfare been pursued, there is no doubt the victory would have been his. His enemy dare not meet him in the open field, but must resort to dishonorable stratagems to compass his purposes. The hounds must chase the poor animals, not unfrequently from morning till night, and the hunters lie in ambush, perchance to arrest him in his bounding course. If the ball performed fatal execution, a glorious victory was the result. Men and hounds gathered around to exult over the fallen victim. Life was gone, and with it all that agility which excites the admiration of the beholder.

Squirrel Hunts were very common in the autumn. The mode of conducting them was to select two expert hunters for captains. Each captain chose an equal number of his townsmen. A day was appointed for the competition, and judges to decide the result of the contest. The forfeiture of



the vanquished party, was the expense of an entertainment. As soon as the day broke, the reports of muskets were heard in every direction. It was a day of terror and slaughter to the indwellers of the forests. The strife was carried on without intermission, till sunset. When it was ended, the parties brought in their booty. It was certainly unwarrantable to take the lives of such an incredible number of those useful animals, at one time. Nor were those recreations in some other respects commendable. Excess in the use of ardent spirits, was not unfrequently an attendant evil. What was commonly called turkey shootings, were still more objectionable. It was a barbarous custom. The evening after the sport of shooting was over, often exhibited a scene of carousal, in profanity, gambling and drinking, till a very late hour. We would not be understood that such scenes were witnessed in the earlier period of our history, when sobriety and sound morality characterized the community.

The manner of living, of our ancestors, in diet, dress, and social habits, was unquestionably much better adapted to health and physical vigor, than many of the changes which have succeeded. If there has been progress in refinement, in these particulars, it hardly admits of a question, whether it has not been made at too great sacrifices. We remember the old-fashioned boiled dish, the glittering pewter plates, and the generously freighted broad pewter platter, occupying the center of the table. This kind of table furniture has now entirely disappeared. We remember also the healthy, happy cheerful group, seated around the ancient circular tables. This kind of table had no annoying angles, and was quite as favorable for social enjoyment as the modern.

Beans were a very prominent article of food in those days. It was not an undesirable accomplishment, of the matron, to be skilled in baking beans, making rye and indian bread, and even bean porridge. The same accomplish-

ment would not be undervalued in the daughter, when solicited to change her single condition. Hasty pudding, once the theme of a celebrated American bard, was very often an essential element in the morning and evening repasts. Lads as well as adults, were adept sportsmen. The forests abounded in game. They furnished not only healthful sport, but healthful food. The bowl of baked apples and milk, was not confined to the nursery, but was a choice dish for the full grown man. The farm yielded almost all the ingredients for the consumption of the family, not excepting sugar and molasses.

It was under such a regimen, youth grew up to manhood, exhibiting no doubtful specimens of health and muscular ability. The men and women, likewise, of the times of which we are speaking, possessed superior health, superior physical power, capable of enduring more, and accomplishing more than we, at the present day. We believe much of this superiority must be ascribed to diet, dress, and the exercises to which they were inured. It was not till after the close of the war, habits of excess, in the use of stimulating liquors, gradually gained an alarming ascendancy. As we have elsewhere remarked, they were thought to be absolutely necessary, during that period of severe and complicated hardships.

The neighborly visits of our ancestors, were very familiar, and unceremonious; and the entertainments of the table plain and simple, perfectly in keeping with such a state of manners. If the hostess happened to be single handed when she had company, it was customary for one or more of the visitors to aid in the preparations for the table. In those days of simplicity, there was no sending, or leaving of cards, no door bells, nor door-keepers, to announce how matters stood within, before a call, or visit could be received. These are all the ingenuity of modern taste, and modern refinement.

It is evident we have degenerated in physical power and endurance, if not in intellectual vigor. We have the high practical example of our progenitors, admonishing us to adopt, essentially, the simplicity of their regimen, and training, not only for our own benefit, but for that of our children.

## \*OTHER SETTLERS.

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JOHN and ELIAS PLIMPTON, brothers, were in active service during several different periods of the Revolution. The writer assisted their widows in procuring pensions, but is unable to state definitely, from memory, the extent of their services, or where performed. Benjamin Hobbs, John and Oliver Plimpton, were, at one period, in the same company, and, if we mistake not, that company was commanded by Capt. Mason. An anecdote of one of their feats is still familiar. Their provisions, especially of meat, at one time, had become quite exhausted. Those men were not of the stamp, patiently to submit to starvation, or even very spare diet. They accordingly reconnoitred the vicinity in search of something to meet the demands of the appetite. At last they marked out in a herd of cattle, a handsome, plump animal, about two years old, which they were determined to secure as their victim. They were well aware that their physical energies must be severely tasked to gain a victory. There was no time for shrinking back, or of holding a parley. The onset must be immediate and unyielding. After a short, but severe effort, John Plimpton was able to seize the animal by the horns. The poor creature might then struggle in vain. Hobbs said, before he had time to come up to assist Plimpton in the struggle, Plimpton had struck the animal two or three blows with his fist on the head, and then picked up a stone

\* This sketch was *inadvertently not sent* to the printer to be inserted in a more appropriate place.

and repeated the blows, but did not succeed in bringing it to the ground. After Hobbs came up, the animal was dispatched, and put into a condition to be carried to the camp. Oliver Plimpton, during the struggle, was posted as sentinel to give notice, in case of danger. Those three men carried their booty on their shoulders to the camp. The reader has an illustration of their resolution and muscular power. John Plimpton and Elias Plimpton, as we have spoken of others, performed their parts faithfully for their country, and were highly esteemed as neighbors and citizens.

PETER BELKNAP was not a native of Sturbridge, but came into the town when a young man, and settled on the spot which afterward became the residence of Thomas Upham. He and his companion lived to an advanced age. They left four sons and five daughters, who married and settled in town. Penuel, Chester, Alfred and Peter, the sons, were active in town concerns. Penuel and Peter represented the town several years in the General Court. One of the daughters married Mr. Rynaldo Plimpton, another, Capt. Alphens Wight, another, Samuel Freeman, Esq. another, James Johnson, Esq. and another, Mr. Abijah Bullard. Mrs. Plimpton, Mrs. Bullard, and Mrs. Freeman, are the only surviving children. The descendants of the venerated pair, are not only numerous in Sturbridge and the neighboring towns, but are numerous and prominent settlers in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and some of the other states. These descendants are not only increasing in numbers, but are exerting a salutary influence.

Mr. Belknap and wife, the ancestors, possessed amiable and social qualities, and were highly esteemed and respected as neighbors, townsmen and christians. It is probable their descendants are more numerous than any other family which commenced settlement in town about the same time. To trace all the ramifications from this ancestral stock, fifty years hence, would be a labor of no inconsiderable research.

## FISKDALE.

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In regard to that section of the town where Fiskdale is situated, the writer recollects very distinctly its appearance before, and during the changing period, to its present growth. Originally a farming territory, it contained the residences of Moses Allen, Abner Allen, and Capt. Jacob Allen, descendants of Moses Allen, the first settler. The observer of the change is forcibly impressed with the contrast between the two periods. Those residences, although in some respects modified, still remain. The use of the water privileges, in this portion of the town, was confined to one small grist-mill, owned by Capt. Jacob Allen. This mill was situated on the western bank of the river, near the point where the large factory dam crosses the river, and at the foot of a deep descent from the road, in the midst of ragged rocks, and scenery which had never been disturbed by the hand of art. In this romantic retreat, Capt. Allen, from youth to advanced age, passed most of his days and nights, in tending this mill. It was the first, and only grist-mill in town, for many years. At the time water privileges began to awaken a new interest, attention was directed to this spot. Dr. Abraham Allen, who became the possessor of his father's real estate, made some progress in building a dam, no doubt with a view to invite attention to this locality. It was found, on examination, to present flattering facilities for a manufacturing establishment. The Hon. J. I. Fiske, who had from the beginning, felt a deep interest in the man-

ufacturing enterprise, is entitled to the credit of laying its foundation in this place. His memory justly claims the name, the village bears. The great work of building the dam, to which allusion has been made, was accomplished at great expense, and in so thorough a manner as to insure its durability. These preparatory works, requiring ample resources, progressed rather slowly, for a while, for the want of ready capital to meet expenditures. Lingerings doubts still remained, as to the success of the enterprise. Capitalists did not readily embark in it. Henry Fiske, a brother of Josiah, was, for some years, associated with him, and actively engaged in building houses. The drafts on Henry's resources were so great, that finding himself in a state of embarrassment, he was obliged to quit the concern.

Discouragements to future progress, seemed, at times, to be almost insuperable, but not so much so as to arrest the perseverance of Josiah. They appeared rather to increase his exertions, and prompt him to resort to untried expedients. The brick mill having been finished and furnished with excellent machinery, went into operation in the year 1829. It produced cotton fabrics of a superior quality, which found a ready market. The state of affairs began to present a more cheering aspect, and held out inducements to enlarge the works. The large stone factory, five stories in height, and 180 feet in length, was completed and went into operation six years after the first. The long stone building, for tenements, was built about the same time. These buildings were constructed of common unwrought stones, gathered in the vicinity. They are supposed to be firm and durable structures, and present an imposing and handsome appearance. The dwelling houses of the village are also handsome, well arranged, and the most of them thoroughly built. A very considerable degree of mercantile and mechanical business is carried on in this village. It has a commodious school-house sufficiently large to accommodate the children; a capacious hall for religious and

other purposes; and also a Baptist church, which has recently been fitted up in an improved style. As much attention is paid to the instruction of children as in any portion of the town. The highways in this village are handsomely laid out, and kept in a good state of repair. The great road, leading to Brookfield, is highly finished, and is a beautiful road, built at an expense of about five thousand dollars. This village is so located as to present a handsome appearance, and, like many others on the Quinaboag, is beautified with very attractive scenery. It furnishes the farmers with a convenient market for wood and other products of the farm. The village has been gradually growing from year to year, and has convenient territory for its much greater enlargement.

Since writing the foregoing, we have been favored by S. A. Drake, Esq. with the following statistics.

The brick-mill was built in 1828, and was put in operation the same year. It contains 88 looms, and preparations for manufacturing No. 30, printed cloths.

The stone-mill was built in 1834 and 1835, and put in operation in April, 1836. It contains 164 looms and preparations for manufacturing fine printing cloths.

The real estate, formerly belonging to J. I. Fiske and the Quinaboag Co., at his decease, passed into the hands of the Sturbridge cotton-mills, which was incorporated in 1835, with a capital of \$100,000.

Mr. Harvey Hartshorn, a native of Wrentham, Mass. was the first agent, and continued in that trust until the Autumn of 1832. Simeon A. Drake, Esq. succeeded him in the agency, and continued in the discharge of the trust until 1854, a period of 22 years. Mr. Wm. B. Whiting, the present agent, succeeded Mr. Drake in the agency. Mr. Drake is the treasurer of the company. A. P. Taylor, Esq. has for a long period filled the accountant department. This company employ about 200 operatives, and transact business to the amount of about \$100,000 annually.



During the many changes and embarrassments to which the manufacturing interest has been subjected, these mills have continued in constant operation, and the company have paid their laborers promptly at the appointed time. We very well remember Mr. Everet, one of the early and efficient members of this company, who is now numbered with the dead. He took a lively interest in promoting the moral and religious welfare of the operatives.

In 1846, Messrs. Smith and Bates commenced the manufacture of boots and shoes, in this village. The business having gradually increased, the present firm, Messrs. Sessions Bates and Co. manufacture these articles to the amount of 50,000 annually, and employ upwards of 75 hands.

In 1847, Messrs. Town, Chaffee and Co. built a large brick shop for the manufacture of augers and bits, by steam power. This establishment was purchased by the Messrs. Snell and Brothers. This kind of business is now confined to the locality, of which we have spoken in another place.

In surveying the great change which has here been made within half a century, one cannot but be deeply impressed with its importance in a private and public point of view. The improvements in mechanical enterprise augment the wealth, not only of the town, but of the country at large. They foster industry by furnishing employment to large numbers who need it. Provision is also made for their literary and religious instruction. When the capitalist can invest his money in an enterprise which yields him a fair profit, and at the same time, promotes the interests of the community, it is certainly a laudable investment. It is wealth not of an evanescent nature, but substantial and enduring.

It is a fact claiming remembrance, that stated religious exercises in this village, bear date quite as early as the first operations of the spindle and the loom. Moral and religious power was indispensable to give them permanent success. For the want of a more convenient place, the attic of a one

story building was occupied for this purpose. Although the room was not very attractive in appearance, or accommodation, it uniformly presented a full and an attentive audience. The meetings in this room were frequently characterised by a deep and solemn interest. A Sabbath School, the prolific nursery of so much choice fruit, was organized about the same time. The writer enjoyed the privilege of being one of the teachers during a considerable period. He remembers well his class of young ladies, always in season, and well prepared for the exercise. Proprietors and agents cheerfully and actively encouraged those religious and intellectual exercises. In due time the humble sanctuary gave place to one more capacious and convenient. These all-important interests have been well sustained up to the present time. When the labors of six days have been performed in the factories, the church going bell invites the villagers to the Sactuary, and to the Sabbath School.

## SOUTHBIDGE.

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Southbridge was taken from Dudley, Charlton, and Sturbridge, but mostly from Sturbridge. It was incorporated in the year 1816. Being almost a century identified with the last mentioned town, in civil, social, religious, and municipal interests—there still seems to exist an identity of character. They were one, in changing an unbroken forest into a state of cultivation; one, in resisting the unjust exactions of the mother country; and one, during a long period, in the enjoyment of the fruits of their joint efforts and trials. It seemed very proper to unite them in this sketch. Although the severed branch has vegetated more vigorously than the parent stock, it has not occasioned one envious emotion. The feeling has rather been more analogous to that of the parent, rejoicing in the prosperity of the child. The harmony of feeling, it is to be hoped, will still be mutually cherished and perpetuated.

As late as the year 1811, the easterly village of now Southbridge, contained a few dwelling houses, a small church belonging to a Poll Parish, and a sparse population. Very little was done in mereantile and mechanical business. Then, as now, there were there, enterprising and industrious men, whose attention was chiefly confined to the cultivation of the soil. The magnitude of the change, which has since taken place, was then hardly within the scope of the imagination. The Quinaboag, the source of this cheering change, was soon to develop its advantages on a broad scale.

We give a brief sketch of what has been done in Southbridge, to promote moral and literary improvements, as well as public convenience, before we speak more particularly of the manufacturing enterprise. This enterprise has placed them upon a larger scale, and given them more prominence.

The improvements that have been made in the highways in Southbridge, within the last thirty years, are highly creditable to the town. Public convenience has not only been promoted, but the appearance of the town, and more especially, of the villages, greatly improved. The bridge, near the Ammidown's factory, is a structure of superior and durable workmanship. The public buildings exhibit the same laudable and exemplary spirit of enterprise. The Congregationalists, the Baptists, the Methodists, the Universalists, and the Catholics, have their handsome and commodious churches for public worship. Another religious society has recently been organized in the Globe Village. Its place of worship, at present, is a capacious hall, fitted up for the purpose. The other principal public buildings are, a town-hall, for municipal purposes, and a large, and well arranged school-house, where children and youth are taught the common and higher branches of literature. The other buildings, occupied for the extensive business carried on there, and the private residences, present a handsome and tasteful appearance. All this growth, wealth, and enterprise are obviously to be ascribed chiefly to the introduction of the manufacturing interest. Here we also witness very inviting scenery, combining natural and artificial beauties. Commendable attention has been paid to all the other school houses, in the town. They are in a handsome, convenient, and comfortable condition, for the accommodation of children and youth, who are there instructed in those elementary branches so eminently useful to prepare them for active life.

Long experience has tested the superiority of our common school system, over all others, which have yet been devised

to promote its contemplated purposes. Hence the laudable attention which is bestowed upon it.

The children in our factories, enjoy equal privileges with those, in other portions of the town, in common school instruction. This remark will not apply to establishments of this sort in Great Britain, but to ours, as one of their brightest features, in a moral and literary point of view. We repeat, the child of indigence, who labors in a factory, enjoys advantages equal to any others, in acquiring a common education. He has the same encouragement to industry and distinction. Republican principles, and republican institutions he is permitted to enjoy in their fullest extent.

In addition to the public buildings which we have noticed in Southbridge, is that in which the Southbridge Bank transacts its business. This banking company was incorporated March 31st, 1836, beginning with a capital of \$100,000. The increase of business demanded an increase of capital. In 1854, the capital was accordingly increased \$50,000. We can confidently speak of this Bank as having been faithfully and discreetly conducted. Excepting some occasional reverses, the stockholders have realized fair profits. Samuel Hitchcock, Esq. was the first president of the Bank. It had the benefit of his prudence and financial talents, for a series of years, and until feeble health compelled him to relinquish the office. Samuel Lane, Esq. has been the cashier, from the beginning. His long continuance in the responsible office, is the best evidence of his fidelity and judicious management. It is gratifying to believe that the Banks, in this Commonwealth, are on a much more safe footing than formerly, and that they are exempt from that reckless speculation which resulted in severe losses to many a needy stockholder.

SAMUEL SLATER.—We introduce our remarks in relation to the manufacturing interest in Southbridge and Sturbridge with a brief sketch of the character of the man who has been justly denominated the father of American

manufacturers. This growing and wide-spreading enterprise is an imperishable memorial of Samuel Slater. Mr. Slater was born in Belper, Derbyshire County, England, on the 9th of June, 1768. His father belonged to a highly respectable class of yeomanry, in that section of country, who, like the most numerous, and far the most important class in our country, cultivate the earth, as their chief pursuit. In this employment, so admirably adapted to the promotion of health and a vigorous physical constitution, Mr. Slater passed the juvenile period of his life. As to his early literary instruction, it was chiefly confined to the advantages of a common school. At school, his favorite study was arithmetic, thereby giving early indications of a clear and discriminating mind. Such mental discipline is quite in harmony with the study of the mechanic arts. At this period, spinning cotton by machinery, was in its infancy. About the year 1775, Jeremiah Strutt commenced this mode of manufacturing in Belper, the residence of the Slater family. Young Slater, at the age of fourteen, became his apprentice, where he remained till the age of twenty one. His faithfulness and extraordinary fitness for the business in which he was engaged, won the confidence and high opinion of his master. He was intrusted, before the close of his apprenticeship, with the chief management of the concern. He had in view, some years before he left Mr. Strutt, America, as the theatre of his future operations. He undoubtedly made all the preparation in his power for such a noble object. It evinced a mind of high order, and expansive views.

On the first day of Sept. 1789, he left his native country, and arrived in New-York, the following November. His only written recommendation was his indenture. Not meeting with satisfactory encouragement in the state of New-York, where he remained a short time, his attention was directed to the State of Rhode-Island. After holding a short correspondence with Moses Brown, a man extensively

known, he visited Providence. He there found more inviting water-privileges, and men, who were disposed to embark with him in the contemplated enterprise.

William Almy and Smith Brown became his partners, to aid him in the prosecution of his plans. The laws of England, at that time, prohibited the emigration of their mechanics, consequently Mr. Slater embarked for this country without the knowledge of even his relatives and friends. He also came without any models, or plans to aid him in the construction of machinery. This was no doubt a necessary precaution. In the contemplated undertaking, his dependence was entirely on his memory and judgment. In making the experiment, he found himself in the most trying circumstances. He then foresaw, that his skill, ingenuity, patience, and perseverance, were to be put to the severest test. He could summon no one to his aid. He must depend entirely on his own intellectual resources. The multiplied, various, and minute parts of the complicated machinery for spinning cotton, must all be made and nicely adjusted by him. One would think the accomplishment of such a work, under such circumstances, transcended human power. He did not shrink from the bold attempt. The process was long, tedious, and in the highest degree discouraging. To his perplexities in prosecuting the work, were superadded the doubts and discouragements of his associates. We must remember that his reputation and future prospects essentially depended on the issue of this undertaking. Notwithstanding all the perplexities he was compelled to encounter, he persevered until he accomplished the object he had so long in contemplation. How long he was engaged in this tedious process, we are not informed.

A report has been in circulation, that when he had supposed his machinery was complete for operation, he was met by some undiscovered difficulties, which seemed to baffle all his ingenuity, and that during this painful state of suspense, the solution of the difficulty was clearly revealed

to him in a dream. This rumor was without any foundation, as was also another, that a certain beautiful box was sent to him from England, designed to take his life in the act of opening it. There is no doubt, that his sleeping hours were disturbed with machinery, and that very many in his native country would not rejoice at his success here. When we contemplate what Mr. Slater accomplished under such forbidding circumstances, we must ascribe to him an achievement which has few, if any parallel on record. Mr. Slater had now not only laid the foundation for a princely fortune for himself, but had opened a boundless field for American enterprise, industry, wealth, comfort, and convenience. The fame of Samuel Slater was universally spread throughout America and Europe.

An interview between Gen. Jackson, and Mr. Slater, deserves notice. Gen. Jackson when President, in his visit at the North, called on Mr. Slater, and addressed him as the father of American manufactures. "I understand" said the President, "you taught us how to spin, so as to rival Great-Britain in her manufactures—you set all these thousands of spindles at work, which I have been delighted in viewing, and which have made so many happy by a lucrative employment." "Yes, sir," said Mr. Slater, "I suppose I gave out the Psalm, and they have been singing to the tune ever since." "We are glad to hear also, that you have realized something for yourself and family," said the Vice President. "So am I glad to know it," said Mr. Slater, "for I should not like to be a pauper in this country, where they are put up at auction to the lowest bidder."

Mr. Slater possessed and practised, in an eminent degree, the moral virtues. He was a model of industry. For twenty years after he came to this country, he labored sixteen hours a day. Such an amount of labor must have been a severe tax upon any man's constitution. He was systematic in the arrangement of his affairs, and scrupulously honest and honorable in all his minute and widely extended



business transactions. He encouraged and aided others, especially those in the same line of business. He possessed the talent of expressing his thoughts and opinions in a laconic manner. Speaking of the poor in regard to industry and its effects, he expresses himself thus, "employment and liberal pay, to the able bodied, promote regularity and cheerfulness in the house, and drive the wolf from its door. Direct charity," he would say, "places its recipient under a sense of obligation, which trenches upon that independent spirit that all should maintain. It breaks his pride, and he soon learns to beg, and eat the bread of idleness without a blush. But employ and pay him, and he receives and enjoys with honest pride, that which he knows he has earned, and could have received for the same amount of labor from any other employer." Mr. Slater possessed the peculiar talent of so expressing himself in respect to matter and manner, as to secure the attention, and make a durable impression on the minds of his hearers.

Did our prescribed limits permit, it would be a pleasure to enlarge upon his charitable and benevolent disposition and acts. The really needy, always found him ready to give them assistance in the way best suited to their necessities. His acts of benevolence were exerted to promote the best interests of society. A Sunday School was established by him for the religious and literary instruction of all in his employment. He taught, himself, and employed and rewarded others for overseeing and instructing. Many an indigent child received in his Sabbath Schools such impressions and such instruction, as prepared the way for his future usefulness. Mr. Slater's Sunday School was among the *first*, if not the first that was established in New-England. His practical economy, not miserly, or even parsimonious, at home and abroad, and in all his business transactions, was an example which every young man who wishes to succeed in business, may safely copy. His economy was an established and controlling principle, adopted

and practised, not exclusively for his own benefit, but for an example to others. It is readily perceived that example for good or for evil in such a sphere of action, would exert a powerful influence. We might illustrate these remarks by detailing particulars in his manner of life. It was manifestly his laudable aim to improve and elevate the condition of the poorer portion of the community.

Mr. Slater's plans, before they were carried into execution, were thoroughly examined in all their bearings. If deemed feasible and useful, they were unwaveringly put into practice. Perseverance and decision were striking traits in his character. In summing up his prominent characteristics, the conclusion is irresistible, that he was an extraordinary man, and that his name will live as one of the most exemplary benefactors of America.

The writer had the honor of an introduction to Mr. Slater, and of enjoying his edifying conversation at several short intervals. He exhibited great simplicity of manners, and was entirely free from all appearance of ostentation or self-complacency. His utterance was deliberate and rather slow, his countenance somewhat grave, but not austere. In person he was large, corpulent and dignified. Mr. Slater died in 1835 at Webster.

Designing to be brief in our sketches, we have omitted to speak of Mr. Slater's brother, John, who was connected with him many years in business. We have also omitted to speak of his happy domestic relations, of his large estate, and of the extent of his business transactions. Mr. Slater's life furnishes material sufficient for a volume of edifying and useful instruction. We acknowledge our indebtedness to the author of a very able sketch of Mr. Slater, published in *Hunt's Merchant's Magazine* of 1819. We recommend the reader to a perusal of that article for a more detailed account of Mr. Slater's character.

It was to be expected that the introduction of a new mode of manufacturing raw materials into cloth, so different in

every respect from the old, and upon so extensive a scale, would work a great change in domestic industry. Prior to this period, cloths for domestic use were manufactured almost entirely in families. The wool, the flax, and the cotton, were carried through the various changes for their appropriate use, mostly by female hands. Most of the farmers produced flax and wool sufficient for their own supply, and some of them more than was necessary for this purpose. Their calculation was, that their expenses should not equal their incomes. In regard to the manufacturing of cloths in families, the matron was commonly well skilled in this branch of industry, and the daughters were early trained in the same way. The adroit management of the wheel and the loom, combining melody with utility, was considered a valuable acquisition, and a sure passport to the possession of a more desirable position. The effect of this kind of profitable exercise, was physical vigor, and a glowing cheek. It was not necessary to resort to artificial modes of exercise, designed exclusively for exercise. The new brood of diseases, preying on the female constitution, was then unknown. The articles thus manufactured, were durable, and well adapted to the varied seasons of the year. Females, as well as males, had their substantial woollen dresses for the winter. They could fearlessly meet the piercing gales of the North-west, and with equal alacrity, if occasion required, attend to the calls of the sty, the flocks, and herds.

But notwithstanding we thus speak, it does not follow that the state of society, and the Country, did not demand the great change, which we are attempting to sketch. We were dependent on foreign nations, for many fabrics, which, if not absolutely necessary, were consistent with rational refinement. This dependence operated greatly to our disadvantage, in regard to the price of the articles. India cotton cloth, very extensively in use, and not a substantial fabric, ranged from fifty cents, to a dollar per yard. Woollen cloth, for a coat, not of a superior quality, five, or six

dollars per yard. The same may be said of other cloths. The great reduction in prices, all will allow, is the result of the great change, of which we are speaking, in manufacturing. This dependence operated greatly to our prejudice, in consequence of the interruption of commerce by hostilities, and other causes. The war of 1812, with England, is an illustration in point. It taught us the precarious nature of dependence on foreign nations for supplies. This war awakened a strong interest in the newly begun enterprise, and gave it a powerful impulse. Men began to see clearly, that we must make the best of our own resources. Our rapidly increasing population, especially from emigration, demanded a new field of industry, to meet the urgency for support and employment. The industrious foreigner may now find employment, adapted to his previous instruction and habits. Idleness, the prolific source of immorality and crime, is discouraged, and, industry, by giving it more ample scope, is encouraged.

## SOUTHBIDGE FACTORIES.

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The first machines, for manufacturing, propelled by mechanical power, were those for carding wool, introduced into this part of the country about the year 1808. Their use was for the purpose of carding the wool of the farmers into rolls, to be spun and woven in families. The clothiers gave the cloth the finishing process, before it was prepared to be made up into garments.

We are informed, that Dea. Sumner, still living in Southbridge, in the year 1811, manufactured the first wool, designed for sale, which was furnished by Calvin and Luther Ammidown, Esqrs. The terms for manufacturing were, that for every pound of wool furnished, a yard of cloth, dressed, ready for use, was to be returned. Those carding machines greatly facilitated the work of carding, and relieved many a female hand. Westville is undoubtedly entitled to the honor of the first established cotton works, in this vicinity, which was in the year 1812. The venerable Mill having been recently repaired, there stands, as the mother of a very prolific and flourishing progeny around her. The following named individuals, viz :—the Rev. Zenas L. Leonard, Moses Fiske, Stephen Newell, John Plimpton, Ziba Plimpton, and Nathaniel Rider, commenced the enterprise. Soon being convinced that more skill and practical knowledge than they possessed, were requisite to carry on the business profitably, the establishment passed into

other hands. Here is one of the best water privileges on the Quinaboag river. The cloth thus early manufactured at this mill, if not so highly finished, was strong and durable, and found a ready market among the people in the community. The business of this establishment, in consequence of some unfavorable circumstances, was, for a while, partially suspended. In the year 1853, Mr. Ballard made thorough repairs, and is carrying on the sattinette business, at this mill. A flourishing state of things is here again witnessed. Various other branches of industry are carried on in this village. It is obvious, here are advantages for a very considerable enlargement of business. The village, although the ground is very uneven, is pleasant, being surrounded with delightful scenery. In the summer season, when nature is robed in her most beautiful attire, few places present more inviting rural attractions. The river, gliding through the midst of the village, is the crowning beauty of the scene. The sheet of water, rolling over the dam, furnishes the villagers with uninterrupted music, as well as a constant display of sparkling gems. Connecting these natural advantages with the pleasantness of the place, it may be safely calculated there will be increasing thrift and prosperity.

About the year 1812, the interruption and uncertainty of our commercial relations with Europe, gave a fresh impulse to the new enterprise. Water-privileges and water-power were sought and examined with lively interest. The Quinaboag was found to be much richer in those advantages than was ever before imagined. In the year 1813, the next cotton factory was erected by William Sumner, now owned by the Dresser Manufacturing Co. This establishment has carried on, excepting some short interruptions, a successful business for more than forty years. It has a good water-privilege, and every thing around it presents a neat and pleasant appearance. The row of white cottages, for the operatives, situated on a rise of ground, attracts the favorable notice of the visitor. The capital stock of this company is \$36,000.

In the year 1814, the foundation of the Globe-Village was laid. In that year the manufacturing of cotton was here commenced by David Fiske, Esq. his son, J. I. Fiske, Nathan Harding, Thomas Upham, Gershom Plimpton, and some others, having formed themselves into a company. The old building of wood, then thought to be an uncommonly large structure, still remains, a monument of the enterprise. There let it stand, a cherished memorial of those men who erected it.

This company, as in the first instance mentioned, became satisfied that they did not possess such knowledge and skill in the business, as would render it profitable to the owners. Another reason why they were obliged to suspend their operation, was that, to which we have alluded, the inauspicious state of our commercial relations, and the want of some protection to this juvenile interest. England flooded us with her fabrics, and was, no doubt, quite disposed to suppress the enterprise in its infancy. This establishment passed into other hands, who commenced the manufacturing of wool. Its owners were changed several times, before it fell into the possession of the present proprietors, the Hamilton Woolen Company.

This is now one of the most successful establishments in the country. The proprietors of this concern, from time to time, have been subjected to losses, and various other kinds of reverses. The first large dam was swept away, resulting in a heavy loss. The large and beautiful brick mill, built in 1837 and 1838, with its contents, was laid in ruins by fire, in the year 1850. Loss estimated at \$180,000. Fortunately the company were able to sustain this heavy loss. Another building was soon erected on the spot of the old one, with a large addition.

We give some interesting statistics, showing the amount of capital, and the products of the concern. The Hamilton Woolen Company was incorporated in 1831, with a capital of \$200,000, one half to be invested in real, and one half, in

personal estate. In 1839, the company was authorised to increase their capital \$100,000 in real, and \$200,000 in personal estate. In 1846, they were further authorised to increase their capital stock to an amount not to exceed one million dollars. The amount of capital paid in, is \$600,000, divided into shares of \$100.

The manufacture of de laines was commenced in 1843, and a cotton mill was erected the next year for the manufacture of the warps. In the year 1850, as the production of de laines had increased, a larger cotton warp mill was built, and, the year following, the machinery for de laines was increased. The product of those mills, during the year ending June 1, 1855, in manufactured de laines, was 4,400,000 yards. The hands employed were 545—9000 cotton spindles, and 9000 worsted spindles, with 18 sets of worsted cards. The cotton, manufactured, was 330,000 lbs. and wool, 530,000, valued at \$140,000. Also, 148,000 yards of cassimere, valued at about \$110,000. One hundred hands, and six sets of machines, are employed, and 155,000 pounds of wool are manufactured into this article. The de laines printed, as before stated, were about 4,400,000 yards, valued at \$700,000.

The amount invested at Westville, is about \$7,000. The company's works are all lighted with gas, at a cost of about \$1,500 per annum.

As this is the largest establishment in the two towns, we have been thus particular in giving its history. We are authorised to state, that the de laines here manufactured, are not surpassed in quality, in any country. The company has been highly favored with men skilled in the business. We are indebted to Mr. Ballard, the present energetic agent, for the aid he has given us in obtaining the desired facts.

This village now presents, in population, buildings, and many convenient and tasteful improvements, the happy results of the manufacturing enterprise. Its vigorous growth has been promoted and sustained by men of business, men



who knew how to turn to a profitable account the natural advantages which here exist. Of this number, honorable mention is made of the names of a Sayles and a Hitchcock. They were co-workers, and efficient agents, in making the Globe-Village what it is. The former was cut down in the midst of his activity and usefulness. The latter retired some years since, and is enjoying the fruits of his industry and discreet calculations. The old scattered dwellings mostly remain. The mansion of Gershom Plimpton, the first settler, considerably enlarged, is still there. Gershom Plimpton was the father of the late Gershom Plimpton, Esq. who succeeded to the paternal residence. Gershom, the son, was active in business, and active and influential in public concerns. We recollect very well his mother, the venerable widow, a very worthy and capable woman, who was always ready to interest the hearer with the important events of her day. The oil-mill of Gershom, the younger, was, for many years, in successful operation. The dwelling-house of Capt. Samuel Newell, of revolutionary memory, is still in a handsome condition. In the easterly part of the village, on the rise of ground, is the old homestead of Oliver Plimpton, Esq. another soldier of the revolution. In his days of activity, every thing in and around his dwelling, was a model of good taste, and good husbandry. Whether you take your position on any of the eminences around this village, or in the midst of it, the eye is met by a blended variety of natural and artificial beauties. How admirably does the Creator cheer us on in our pursuits of industry, by surrounding us with objects, which cannot fail to delight and charm!—The men who first prepared the way for the growth and prosperity of the village, are all sleeping in their graves. Moses Plimpton, Esq. long familiarly known among us, and highly esteemed, was the clerk of the first company, then quite a young man. He has been recently removed by death, in a sudden and distressing man-

ner. As the founders of this establishment, and as men of sterling worth, their names deserve a record of remembrance.

In the year 1813, the first woolen mill erected, in what is now Southbridge, was on the old Marcy privilege, so called. It was partially destroyed by fire in 1814, and soon after, rebuilt. The company was incorporated by the name of the Charlton Woolen Manufacturing Company. It continued in business, with some degree of success, until peace was ratified with Great Britain, in the year 1815. The double duties, which had been laid on foreign woollens, were about this time repealed. The country was soon flooded with foreign goods. The consequence was, the ruin of this, and many other of our infant manufactories.

The Columbian Factory was erected in 1821, and carried on a profitable business, the most of the time, until it was destroyed by fire, in 1843. This mill contained about 3000 spindles and 80 looms, and cost \$40,000. Here remains a small village, very pleasantly located, and a valuable water power now unoccupied. It is certainly an inviting spot for industry and enterprise. It reminds us of the late much lamented Moses Plimpton, Esq. of whom we have spoken. He had the principal charge of this establishment, for many years. This spot, having so many inviting attractions, we predict, will soon present a renovated business aspect.

In the year 1836, the Ashland Mills were commenced by Larkin Ammidown, Esq. They were afterwards purchased by Messrs. Kimball and Co. and by them so much enlarged, as to render the establishment about equal in value to the Columbian. This mill was also destroyed by fire, in 1849, and has not been rebuilt. The water power is now used for grinding grain, and sawing lumber.

Our attention is next directed to the central mills, built and owned by the Central Manufacturing Company. This establishment was built in 1838, at a cost of about \$110,000,

and contains 6000 spindles, and about 150 looms. For thoroughness, judicious arrangement, and good taste, in relation to the mills, and the buildings connected with them, it is not surpassed, as we believe, by any in the Commonwealth. It exhibits the comprehensive views and sound judgment of the individual who contrived and executed the work. In tracing the history of this great industrial interest, experience has taught a profitable lesson, which has been judiciously applied to practice. In works of this kind, there have been, obviously, great improvements, in respect to workmanship and durability. The contrast, in this particular, between factories built at an early period, and those more recently, is very striking. The central factory, of which we have last spoken, fully confirms the truth of this remark. We witness evidence of progress in what is useful, and an aiming at higher and higher attainments.

We are reminded, by this examination, that the manufacturers of Southbridge have been subjected, at various times, to very serious losses and discouragements. Three very valuable mills, with most of their contents, have been destroyed by fire, and *two* others partially. The laws also in regard to protection, have severely tested the spirit of the enterprise. Notwithstanding such formidable obstacles, they have persevered, and surmounted them all. In an enterprise, so extensive in its operations, and even so useful, checks and depressions, have formed a part of its history. Entire exemption cannot hereafter be expected. The past has furnished a useful practical lesson for the future. Factories, of this sort, seem to be peculiarly subject to destruction by fire. The vast amount of property thus destroyed, is a calamity more and more alarming.

What can be done to prevent, or even to render less frequent, the occurrence of such losses, is a momentous inquiry. Is not more caution, than has hitherto been observed, urgently demanded? Cannot ingenuity devise some additional safe-guards against so destructive an evil? By

such catastrophes, multitudes, for a time, at least, are thrown out of employment, and a vast amount of property, necessary for industry, and the support of life, is totally destroyed.

The writer remembers very well, the origin and progress of this great enterprise. He remembers also the discouragements which have been surmounted in its progress.

Experiment has taught us that the operation of this great enterprise, instead of retarding, as was apprehended, has accelerated the progress of agriculture, and given it increased encouragement. The territory, necessary for its operation, is comparatively trifling. It has converted to wealth and industry, a countless number of water-privileges, which had otherwise remained almost useless. Markets for the sale, or exchange of agricultural products, have been multiplied without number. With the natural scenery of our rivers, are now united the utility and beauty of art. With the sound of the water-falls, is mingled the cheering hum of industry.

Intimately connected with this, and other important industrial interests, is the history of the proceedings of the government in relation to protection. A full narration of those proceedings would require volumes, and no small share of patience to peruse them, therefore only a brief sketch will be attempted in this work. The adjustment of a tariff, touching this important matter, has, for a long series of years, enlisted the first talents of the country, and has been one of the principal questions, which have arrayed parties against each other. However absurd this may seem, as a common interest, the fact is incontrovertible.

Congress, at the commencement of this great enterprise, was slow in its movements, in regard to protection. Although some of the first men of the South took the lead, in passing an act in its favor, that portion of the Union soon became generally opposed to protection, on the ground that it would operate against their interest. As it became more

and more a party question, many, at the North, no doubt, joined in the opposition to protection, merely to increase the strength of party. As a matter of duty and policy, it is clearly a dictate of common sense, that government is bound to extend all the aid, in its power, to protect and promote home industry. The English government has uniformly acted on this principle. Rarely has party opposition been so strong as to prevent that government, far-sighted in all its movements, from carrying it out. It is not a selfish principle, but perfectly compatible with the right of self-preservation.

One of the most distinguished statesmen, who led in measures to protect American industry and enterprise, was Henry Clay, denominated the author of the American system. He surveyed with the eye of an impartial statesman, all the great and varied interests of the whole country, and shaped his political course accordingly. His elevated mind, to human view, was uninfluenced by sectional, or party considerations. Unwearied in his efforts to obtain such a tariff as would operate favorably, both for revenue and protection, he had the satisfaction, at certain periods in the history of this much agitated question, to witness its success. Daniel Webster, who stood on the highest pinnacle of intellectual elevation, uniformly exerted his unrivalled powers to obtain such a tariff. This difficult subject appeared to be as easily comprehended by him, in all its bearings, as any familiar question in mathematics. Again, and again, and again, did he elucidate, and enforce it in Congress, and before admiring audiences, in various sections of the country. Who has not felt, after hearing, or reading his speeches, that every thing was perfectly clear, said in the best possible manner, and that nothing was left unfinished. Mr. Webster's expansive and towering intellect embraced the whole country. That country he loved, and uniformly, through a long and glorious career, exerted that intellect to promote its best interests. Another man, whose clear and

capacious mind, was long engaged in behalf of American industry, must not be passed over in silence. That man was John Davis. He made himself master of the subject, and fearlessly met the most powerful champions of the opposition. Many of the aged, now remember, with what ability and success he met the arguments of Mr. Mc Duffee, one of the ablest debaters of the South. Mr. Davis, at that time, had but recently entered upon his public career. As his forensic strength had not then been fully tested on the floor of Congress, there were fears that he had taken a position he would not be able to maintain. The result of the trial fully proved that he knew better than others, what he was able to accomplish. His friends were much gratified, and no longer doubted his ability to acquit himself ably and honorably, in whatever he undertook. His constituents honored him with a dinner, and a present of a valuable silver pitcher.

Another Representative from this district, the Hon. Charles Hudson, is entitled to much credit, for his indefatigable exertions, to procure such a tariff as the interests of the country demanded. In details and statistics, he was unwearied in his labors. In his many speeches, on this subject, his arguments were lucid and conclusive. Very many other distinguished men might be named, whose talents were exerted on the same side. We might speak of the Hon. Silas Wright, of the democratic party, as one of them, and one of the strongest men in the country. It must be admitted that there was talent of a high order, arrayed against protection, but the talent of this character, was principally confined to the South. John C. Calhoun, although early in favor, afterwards exerted his extraordinary powers against it.

These remarks are intended merely to show the struggles, the conflicting opinions, and the unsettled policy of the government, in regard to protection. It is obvious the great interest of which we have been speaking, has been greatly

prejudiced, by such a fluctuating policy. It will however live, as we believe, a great and useful interest to us, in this vicinity, and to the country.

In reference to social habits, moral, educational, and religious privileges, it must be considered, if rightly improved, a favorable circumstance, that manufacturing establishments are generally surrounded with an agricultural population, which is identified with them, in the enjoyment of these privileges. The proprietors of well regulated establishments, of this sort, are abundantly sensible of the happy influence of civil and religious institutions; and, greatly to their credit, have favored them with liberal patronage. As these two great interests are to continue together, in all coming time, it is of the first importance that they should move on harmoniously together, mutually promoting each other's prosperity. Harmony in views, and in action, is an essential element to such a result. Cherishing this element, we may confidently look forward to the continued growth and prosperity of both.

Those concerned in manufacturing establishments, have been charged with aiming at seclusion, and with exerting an undue influence, in the exercise of political privileges. It is not at all strange, that such charges should be in circulation, in the heat of political struggles, when parties are not very scrupulous, as to the means of compassing their ends. Vital interests must be sacrificed on the shrine of party. This great evil we believe to be more rife at present, than at any former period of our history. We speak of it here, because it appears to be one of the causes which have hitherto disturbed the harmony of the two great interests.

The intelligence and good sense of the people, have hitherto arrested the progress of this evil, after it had reached such a point, as aroused into action this resistless force. It is a force on which a republic must depend for the correction of evils of this kind. It is a truth which cannot be too strongly, and too frequently inculcated, that the people must

be morally and intellectually enlightened, to enable them to exercise discreetly their controlling power. This enlightenment from the press, (which is said to be one of the safeguards of liberty,) is certainly mixed with many dark shades. The remark is applicable to a great share of the effusions from that source in political campaigns, occasions, when truth is more needed than on any other. It is to be lamented that party is exerting such an influence over the press; in seasons of elections especially, very little dependence is to be placed upon it, to guide the public mind. The party in power must have its journals to gloss over its measures, wise or unwise, right or wrong. It is admitted there are honorable exceptions. The press becomes a dangerous engine, when its aims are exclusively directed to compass party purposes. Although compelled to speak thus of our own, it has many redeeming qualities. It is the vehicle of a great amount of useful matter, which could not be so easily and cheaply obtained in any other way.

How can the desired and necessary information, in very many cases, in reference to men and measures, be obtained without the aid of the press? It is admitted to be a question attended with difficulties. Our ancestors generally judged and acted discreetly, without much dependence on such aid. They examined measures and their effects by the test of sound common sense. Party did not divert them from the exercise of common sense, in their political course. This remark is fully illustrated by reference to the character and ability of the men who were elected to office during a quarter of a century after the organization of the general government, and during a much longer period after the organization of our state government.

It is conceded by all parties, that Washington, and Adams, and Jefferson, and Madison, and Monroe, and the second Adams, were abundantly qualified as statesmen for the highest office in the gift of the people, and that they severally discharged the duties of that position with distin-



guished credit to themselves, and to the country. The same remark holds true in reference to those, who for a long series of years were elevated to the chief magistracy of this Commonwealth. "Is he *capable*, is he *honest*," was an inquiry which was not disregarded in the exercise of one of the most important privileges of the citizen. Such qualifications have, obviously, for many years, been almost entirely neglected. Hence the multiplied crude and indiscreet measures and laws, with which our Commonwealth and the Country have been afflicted.

We admit that we have advanced an inquiry which we are not able fully to answer. Experience and observation have taught us that an enlightened community will not long tolerate evils, seriously affecting its interests, and realized as such, without exerting its power to correct them. Let men think and investigate for themselves, and act according to the dictates of common sense, which was, as before observed, a striking characteristic of our ancestors, then there will be little danger but that the evils to which we have alluded will be checked. The aspirant for distinction, who possessed no claims to merit, found no sympathy, or support, from men of their stamp.

The manufacturing interest is so intimately connected with all the other important interests of the country, that its prosperity, or depression, is felt by all. This idea we have more than once expressed. It cannot be too deeply impressed on the public mind.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

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In the conclusion of our sketch, we subjoin some general remarks on the several administrations of the general government, from its first organization to the present time. The manœuverings and developments of the spirit of party, (so called) during this period, furnishes a prolific theme for curious investigation. This element in our body politic, has, at certain periods, no one will deny, exerted a most unfavorable influence, both at elections, and in the administration of the government. Its influence, to a certain extent, may be a salutary check, but when it marshals an organized faction, the general interests, the general welfare are totally overlooked, and the aims of the faction are exclusively regarded. Our history exhibits quite too many repulsive features of this sort,

WASHINGTON, who was at the head of our armies from the commencement, to the triumphant termination of the conflict, was again by the unanimous voice of his country, elevated to the highest civil trust in its gift.\* On the 30th day of April, 1789, the oath of office was administered to George Washington, President of the United States; the man who was emphatically "*first* in war, *first* in peace ! *first* in the hearts of his countrymen."

\* The Confederation, styled the United States of America, was in force from 1777 to 1789. At the latter period, the Constitution superseded the Confederation.

With the history of Washington's administration, every child ought to be familiar. The historian loves to dwell upon it. Time has ratified it as a model administration, in all its prominent features. The parallel between Washington and Alfred the Great, is very striking in many important particulars. Each rescued his country from foreign invasion; each laid the foundation of his country's prosperity; both were patriots above reproach; both have secured imperishable fame.

Party spirit began to assume a threatening aspect near the close of Washington's administration. Our foreign relations, at that period, were the chief causes which arrayed parties against each other. That irreproachable patriot did not escape the scurrilous denunciations of a few turbulent spirits. The great mass of the people frowned with indignation upon such conduct. An anecdote related to the writer by the late venerable Dr. Pierce of Brookline, illustrates the common sentiment in regard to Washington, at that time. When a young man, Dr. Pierce was associated with Ebenezer Adams, the distinguished mathematician, as assistant preceptor of Leicester Academy. A newspaper found its way into the Academy, which contained some scurrilous remarks against Washington. A question at once arose, what disposition should be made of the paper. It was deliberately decided that some one should take the paper with the tongs, and put it into the fire. This apparently trivial affair, was a significant expression of that high respect and strong affection which was felt, not only in that locality, but throughout the country towards Washington as its political father. The Jay treaty, (so called,) raised a storm which raged somewhat violently for a while. Washington was the man to assuage it. He submitted the treaty to the people for their deliberation, before he made up his own mind on the subject. It summoned to its investigation the first talents of the nation. Volumes were written for and against it. Hamilton, under the signature of Camil-

lus, in a great number of articles, spread before the public, the wonderful resources of his mind in favor of the treaty Washington, after surveying the subject in all its bearings, gave his sanction to the treaty. Practical results evinced the soundness of his judgment. Time, we may safely predict, will not diminish the lustre of the name of Washington.

JOHN ADAMS succeeded Washington in the presidency, March 4th, 1797. He had performed a noble and distinguished part in the struggle for independence. Throughout this struggle, he was bold, uncompromising, and persevering in his course. This same trait of character, he carried with him into the presidential chair. He had made himself familiar with the most prominent systems of government then in existence, or that had existed. Some of the stringent measures which he recommended, were not favorably received by large numbers, and rendered him somewhat unpopular. The monarchical views with which he was charged, had in reality no foundation. His strong feelings in the prosecution of measures, it is not improbable, carried him occasionally beyond the bounds of strict prudence. Opposition increased rapidly during his administration, and obtained such an ascendancy as to elect Mr. Jefferson his successor. The principal disagreement of those two statesmen, we believe, was in reference to our foreign relations. Mr. Adams was charged with prepossessions in favor of England, and Mr. Jefferson in favor of France. They disagreed in some particulars in relation to our home interests. The growth and prosperity of the rising Republic, were, no doubt, the controlling motive which actuated both. Mr. Jefferson, possessing a philosophic turn of mind, projected schemes which were deemed visionary. Notwithstanding some of his theories would not bear the test of practical experiment, they evinced a mind reaching after improvements. His administration was very popular with his party, and no doubt, justly so in its most important

particulars. The acquisition of Louisiana was one of the fruits of his administration. Mr. Jefferson was eminently a civilian, without any of the requisites of a military commander. In his sphere of action, in the great struggle, the brilliant part he performed, has immortalized his memory. As a statesman, as a patriot, as an able and polished writer, he ranks among the first men of his own, or any other age. During his administration, it was high tide with the spirit of party. Very few thought of taking a neutral position. The mighty commotions of Europe deeply agitated the public mind in America. Both sexes, of all ages, were profoundly versed in politics, or imagined themselves so, and were quite willing to have it distinctly understood, on which side they were arrayed.

\*THOMAS JEFFERSON entered upon the duties of his office, March 3d, 1801, and held it two terms in succession.

JAMES MADISON held the same high position from March 4th, 1809, to March 3d, 1817. During his administration, the war of 1812, (so called,) the second war with the mother country, was waged, and prosecuted with vigor, during three years, attended with victories and defeats on both sides. The administration was censured by the opposition, for declaring war before sufficient preparation was made for such a conflict. It is probable the censure was not without some foundation. The war itself was sufficient to arouse and sustain a state of high excitement. Although, in the destruction of life and property, the war was greatly to be deprecated, it is quite sure we lost nothing in the result, in point of martial prowess. It is not our intention to dwell upon the events in detail, although they are full of thrilling interest. Peace was restored in 1815. The news was received with universal joy. We, in the village of

\* The electoral vote for Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, being equal, no choice was made by the people. On the thirty-sixth ballot by the house of Representatives, Thomas Jefferson was elected President.

Sturbridge, manifested our gratification by illuminating the church and private dwellings. The venerable Gen. Newell led the way in this movement. His mansion presented a more brilliant and imposing appearance than any other. Mr. Madison manifested a lively interest in the political concerns of his country. His mind was thoroughly trained in the school of politics. In constitutional, legislative, and international questions, his views were clear and comprehensive. The cabinet, and not the field, was his appropriate sphere of action. During his administration, it is well remembered that the Capitol was burnt by the enemy. Had a Washington, a Jackson, or a Taylor, been at the head of the Government at that time, it is presumable such a catastrophe would not have occurred. Although his qualifications, as before observed, were almost exclusively of a civil character, he filled the executive chair with distinguished ability. His venerable widow, as also the widow of Gen. Hamilton, having each, measured almost a century, have but recently passed away.

JAMES MONROE entered upon the duties of the office of President, March 4th, 1817. He held the office two terms; the latter terminating 3d of March, 1825. At this period, the public mind was gradually tending to a more quiescent state. Mr. Monroe's course was admirably calculated to disarm opposition, and conciliate parties. His second election was almost, if not quite unanimous. No man's presidential course was more quiet, or less annoyed by party opposition than Mr. Monroe's. If public acquiescence is a test of the wisdom of measures, Mr. Monroe's received such a test. He bore arms in the Revolution, and carried the marks of his bravery through life. His services in the field, were, no doubt, remembered with gratitude by his country. He did not possess the native powers of mind of either of his predecessors, but was well furnished with practical attainments. He had represented his country at the Court of St. James, and was thoroughly versed


in diplomacy. He was theoretically and practically an indefatigable student and co-worker in the political affairs of his country, and was well prepared for the high trust he discharged with so much acceptance to the public. Like some other devoted patriots, his attention was so much engrossed for the public, that his own private interests were almost forgotten. His possessions consisted almost exclusively of a well-earned reputation. During his administration, Florida was ceded to the United States by Spain, and had a territorial government established in 1822.

JOHN Q. ADAMS, not having received a majority of the votes of the electors, was chosen by the House of Representatives, President, and entered upon the duties of his office, March 4th, 1825. Mr. Adams possessed superior qualifications for the station. Gifted with uncommon native powers of mind, no pains were spared to cultivate and mature them. Mr. Adams was emphatically a ripe scholar, and probably had not a superior in this respect, in the United States. As a legislator, as a diplomatist, in short, as a statesman, his public life furnished abundant evidence of his eminent qualifications for office. Favored with peculiar advantages for the acquisition of such attainments, as before remarked, they were industriously improved. He had at several different periods, represented his Country at the first Courts in Europe. In negotiating the treaty at Ghent in 1815, although his associates were men no less distinguished than Henry Clay, and James A. Baird, they readily accorded to him the lead in the negotiation. In his public career, trammelled by no party restraints, his course was according to the dictates of his own opinion. He made no promises, no bargains, the better to enable him to obtain favor, or office.

For this sort of manœuvering, which so disgracefully marks the political movements of the present day, John Q. Adams had no sympathy. Had he condescended to such degradation, he probably might have been more popular for

the time being, especially, in the estimation of men who disregard the means how they compass their ends. During his presidency, we recollect the remark of a gentleman in reference to Mr. Adams's familiarity with the duties of his station. Reading one of his productions, the gentleman observed, "Mr. Adams always writes like a man who is at home on his subject." His administration commanded respect at home and abroad. Although thus peculiarly fitted for the highest trust in the gift of the people, his popularity was not sufficient to secure a second election. Up to the time Mr. Adams quit the executive chair, it must be acknowledged that all its incumbents were fitted to discharge its duties with ability and distinguished credit to themselves and to the country. From this period, we are compelled to believe there has been a marked decline in the fitness of most of those who have been elevated to that position. To what is this declension to be ascribed, but to the unwarrantable aspirations of party? General intelligence has not diminished, but the same cannot be said of the controlling motive to promote the general welfare.

ANDREW JACKSON, the immediate successor of Mr. Adams, entered upon the duties of the office of President, the 4th of March, 1829. His second term terminated March 3d, 1837. He was fresh from the field of glory. His signal victory, at New-Orleans, Jan. 8th, 1815, added new luster to the high military reputation he had already gained. His popularity secured his election by a large majority. His administration, during both terms, was far from being of a neutral character. In relation to the wisdom and expediency of some of his measures, there was a diversity of opinion. Some of his warm adherents did not fully acquiesce in them all. It was thought he assumed too much, and did not sufficiently regard constitutional and legal provisions. In energy of character, and determined execution of purpose, Gen. Jackson strikingly resembled Henry the eighth. If a record, made by the highest





legislative authority, did not meet with his approbation, he could command it to be expunged. If a banking institution, deriving its powers from the general government, was, in his opinion, exerting an unfavorable influence, he could doom it to annihilation. If a decision of the Supreme Court, did not harmonize with his construction of the law, he did not hesitate to disregard it; if nullification was threatening the integrity of the Union, his frown could, at once, arrest its progress. His course, in many important particulars, no doubt, merited public approbation, and exerted a salutary influence. His administration, in connection with his personal character, commanded respect at home and abroad. It will hold a conspicuous place on the page of history, presenting much which ought to be approved, and much of doubtful expediency. His powers of mind, although not thoroughly disciplined in the sciences, were strong and vigorous. His opinions were probably mostly formed from practical experience, and the keen observation of men and measures. The durability of his fame is, undoubtedly, more securely based on his *military*, than on his civil character. Decision and frankness characterized his measures. They were such as kept the spirit of party in full exercise. No man heeded its influence less.

MARTIN VAN BUREN, as the immediate successor of President Jackson, entered upon the duties of the office of President, March 4th, 1837, and held it one term. Mr. Van Buren was not deficient in talents, or in familiarity with the political interests of the country. He entertained a high opinion of Gen. Jackson, and declared at the commencement of his presidential career, that he should follow in the foot-steps of his illustrious predecessor. It is very doubtful, if disposed, whether he possessed the requisites essential to carry out the declaration. He was not an exact counterpart of Gen. Jackson. The course of his illustrious predecessor, whether right or wrong, was strait-forward, and free from subterfuge, or disguise. His expressed intentions

were uniformly followed by correspondent action. In this particular, the parallel was very far from being complete. In the exercise of the veto power, there was a striking resemblance in their official course. This power, it was generally admitted, was too freely used by both. It is a dangerous power in the hands of the man of limited qualifications for the executive chair, as also in the hands of the man who is not sufficiently scrupulous of transcending the limits of his authority. In either case, it is subject to abuse. In the hands of the able and upright statesman, it is no doubt, a wise provision in the constitution. It is not our intention to dwell upon the merits, or demerits of Mr. Van Buren's administration, or to impugne his motives. Party spirit ran high, and a troublous state of things existed.

The currency was in a fluctuating condition, and there existed a want of confidence in the stability of banks. Exchanges were high, and commerce subjected to serious embarrassments. Defalcations in those who had the charge of the public revenue, were frequent, and very considerable losses were sustained. In this particular, Mr. Van Buren, as was also President Jackson, unfortunate, in some of their appointments. Mr. Van Buren is the father of the sub-treasury system. It had long been his favorite measure. Before the close of his administration, there was an unmistakable desire manifested for a change. The opposition resorted to extraordinary movements in their efforts to accomplish their object. Although there was nothing exceptionable in those movements but a want of manly dignity, they have not been deemed of sufficient authority to be repeated. The log-cabin had its day, and will not probably again exert its magic influence in making presidents. If Mr. Van Buren was not successful in the high position to which he was elevated, it does not follow that he has not been useful to his country in other important trusts which he has discharged. We pass from his administration to that of President Harrison, which was limited to one month.

WILLIAM H. HARRISON was elected President and entered upon its duties, March 4th, 1841.

Gen. Harrison had performed important military services for his country, and had very justly gained the reputation of a brave and skillful officer. The achievement at Tippicanoe, in a battle with the Indians, in 1810, was sounded far and wide in his praise. He, like Washington and Wayne, had the sagacity to meet the stratagems of the Indians in their peculiar mode of warfare. This victory was followed with decisive results, as it regards the Indians in that quarter. Bravery and skill in defence of one's country, will irresistibly exert a powerful influence on the public mind. Gen. Harrison had held a seat in the Senate of the United States, and other civil offices, but we must ascribe his popularity, in an important degree, to his military character. Those who were well acquainted with his civil qualifications, did not hesitate to say, that they believed he would discharge the duties of Chief Magistrate with credit to himself and to the country. The popular current which ran so powerfully in his favor would be no trivial auxiliary in the discharge of his official responsibilities. The gatherings of the people, to which we have alluded, were a strong and significant expression, not only in favor of a change in the administration, but in favor of Gen. Harrison.

At the threshold of his presidential career, one important evidence he manifested of his fitness for the station, was the selection of his Cabinet. It was composed of the first talents of the country, with Daniel Webster at its head. Thus auspicious was the brief presidential career of president Harrison, when he was removed by death, universally lamented. His character was adorned with sterling virtues. He was, in short, an *honest* man.

JOHN TYLER took the oath, of office of President, April 6th, 1841. When entering upon its duties, he explicitly expressed his intention of carrying out the views of his lamented predecessor. His address was a well written and

flattering document. Experience had taught us that implicit confidence is not always to be placed in the fulfillment of promises. So it proved in reference to the promises of Mr. Tyler. His political standing in subordinate stations had commanded respect, and gave flattering assurance that he might sustain a more elevated one with equal credit. Experiment proved that he was unequal to the discharge of the high trust which accidentally devolved upon him. Perhaps the thought had hardly, for a moment, been entertained that it was possible that Mr. Tyler might occupy the place of President Harrison, as such a vacancy had not before occurred in the history of our government. It is believed Mr. Tyler was not at all conscious of any inability to occupy the highest position. He evidently shaped his course with reference to a second term, consequently his measures vacillated with the manœuverings of party.

The qualities of a great and impartial statesman, governing himself according to the claims of his station, Mr. Tyler possessed in a limited degree. The Cabinet which President Harrison had so discreetly selected, all resigned except Mr. Webster. His continuance, a while longer, at least, was deemed indispensable to attempt the settlement of some important questions. Discontent prevailed more and more in consequence of Mr. Tyler's instability, and devious course of conduct. In endeavoring to gain the favor of all parties, he secured the approbation of none. He made very free use of the *veto power*. It was unfortunate for him and to the country, that so important a trust should devolve upon him. We sketch his character, thus frankly, as the chief executive magistrate; as a citizen, it is said to be unexceptionable.

JAMES K. POLK entered upon the duties of President, March 4th, 1845. The indiscreet workings of party, at the time he was suddenly introduced as a candidate for the office, claim special notice. He was comparatively an obscure man, having furnished no special claims to the office, in

services to his country, or as evidence of his ability to discharge its duties. He had been a member of Congress, and held a respectable standing in that body. The nomination was, no doubt, as surprising to himself as it was to the nation. The opposing candidate was Henry Clay, whose well-earned fame and transcendant qualifications, were familiar to almost every child in the nation. Every honest man, free from the trammels of party, would exclaim, Henry Clay is *the* man for President of the United States. The honor and the interests of the nation, at home and abroad, claim him for its chief Magistrate. Henry Clay had for almost half of a century, exerted his rare and brilliant powers in promoting the best interests of the Union. Although a southern man, he stood aloof from sectional prejudices, and embraced in his expansive views, the *whole* country. Mark the sequel! James K. Polk was elected, and Henry Clay defeated! Such a result is not a very cheering illustration of the elective franchise, or of republican principles. One of the *most*, if not the *most* suitable man could not be elected to fill the most important office in the gift of the people!

Look at consequences. The nation was soon involved in an offensive war with Mexico. It was evidently waged without sufficient cause. The principal cause alleged, was that Mexico had neglected to fulfill her pecuniary engagements; not that she had refused to do so. It is a principle well established, that the declaration of an offensive war should be the last resort of a nation. We cannot escape the imputation of a violation of this humane principle. The war bore a strong resemblance to those which have been waged and carried on exclusively for conquest. We cannot avoid reflections of this sort, when we call to remembrance our prowess, and the victories attending our arms. Had Mexico been a powerful nation, and a match for us, there is no doubt the action of our government would have been quite different. Whether so or not, justice demanded the

same course of conduct on our part. A nation is under as solemn obligations to be governed by principles of justice, humanity, and honorable conduct as individuals, and much more so. If we needed additional acquisitions of territory from Mexico, there was very little doubt they might have been obtained to the full extent of our wishes, without the use of sword, or bayonet. War is certainly to be deprecated, whether in self-defence, or otherwise. Had Mr. Clay been elected, there are strong reasons to believe that every thing would have been effected by negotiation, which justice and honor demanded. Although aided by able counsellors, the Executive is regarded as responsible for the acts of the government, and consequently he should be competent to control and direct. This position is fully illustrated in our own history, as well as in that of other nations. The war was very hastily declared. It is not to be understood there was not a large and powerful party in favor of it. The almost unbroken series of brilliant victories which crowned our arms, was exceedingly captivating, especially in the minds of the young. When such results follow, many are not disposed to examine very minutely the merits, or demerits of the grounds of the conflict. The result of this contest, was a vast extent of new territory, thrown into our hands, and a long and vexed state of things among ourselves, in disposing of it. It revived afresh the question of slavery, and fresh acrimony on this vexatious subject. A compromise, particularly in reference to slavery, was deemed necessary to allay the raging elements, and, if possible, produce more reconciliation throughout the Union. The Compromise Measure, commanding to its aid the first talents of the country, was consummated, in 1850.

ZACHARY TAYLOR succeeded Mr. Polk in the executive chair, March 4th, 1849. Gen. Taylor had not been very extensively known, especially at the North, before the Mexican war. He was the commander of the first troops which invaded Mexico, and very soon attracted universal

attention. His discreet conduct, even from the commencement of hostilities, produced a more and more favorable impression of him as a commander, and as a man. As those military operations became more extended, and the skill of the commander put to a severer test, he was found equal to the exigences of his position. The public knowing the fearful odds, in point of numbers which were arrayed against him, its solicitude was, at times, intense, as to the result. It is said that the Duke of Wellington, having traced, with great accuracy, the movements of the conflicting parties, and the perilous situation in which Gen. Taylor was at times placed, pronounced him, after the achievements of some of his signal victories, one of the greatest generals of the age. At the most critical juncture, he was deprived by the orders of his government, of some of his forces. Whatever might be its intention in so doing, the result rendered Gen. Taylor's success more brilliant. Gen. Jackson who had long known Gen. Taylor, spoke of his military talents in terms of high commendation.

Such, in brief, had been Gen. Taylor's brilliant course in the Mexican war, that his name became very familiar throughout the country. The general impression was, that no man could have acquitted himself more discreetly and bravely in that responsible position. Under these favorable circumstances, the public being almost captivated with his military character, he was brought forward as a candidate for the presidency. Very many who admired his military talents, doubted his fitness for the highest civil station. Knowing that most of his life had been spent in camps, they inferred that his knowledge, as well as his experience, as a civilian, must be very limited. These doubts, together with the slavery question, and other causes, led to the formation of a new party, denominated the Free-Soil party. The more his qualifications were investigated and developed, the more favorably impressed was the public mind in behalf of the nomination. His literary attainments were

found to be respectable, and that he was by no means ignorant of the political interests of his country. He was found also to be an honest man, possessed of a good share of common sense, and of great firmness and decision of character. He avowed that Washington should be his model. Although a southern man, and a slave-holder, it was believed that neither Southern, nor Northern partialities, or prejudices, would divert him from such a course, as he deemed would promote the general and best interests of his country. When Gen. Taylor entered upon the duties of his office, he had become generally very popular. Although not practically a statesman, he possessed a strong penetrating mind, and, as we have before observed, a great share of common sense. These qualifications, united with correct intentions, enabled him to take a pretty accurate view of the general state of affairs. In the short experiment he was spared to make of his fitness, the country was not disappointed. In this experiment, he furnished incontestable proof that neither threats, nor flattery, could divert him from what he deemed the correct course of his duty as chief magistrate. He was, by no means, tenacious of his own opinions, nor did he allow himself to transcend the bounds of the executive department. In his opinion, each department of the government was entitled to the free exercise of its constitutional duties, without executive interference. Nor did he think it within the constitutional scope of the Executive to arrest the progress of a bill by the exercise of the veto power, unless the case were clearly within that provision. President Taylor commanded respect as a chief Magistrate, and as a man. His public documents were an undisguised exhibition of his opinions and intentions.

Public opinion had been gradually increasing in his favor, as a chief Magistrate, and at the time of his death, it was well established, that he was pursuing a judicious course. The materials, however, which secure his durable fame, are mostly confined to his military character. Before



one year had elapsed, from the time of his inauguration, the presidential chair was rendered vacant by his much lamented death. The high trust devolved on MILLARD FILLMORE, the Vice President. During his administration, in the year 1850, the Compromise Act, (so called,) embracing the provision in relation to fugitive slaves, was passed. This period was a thrilling juncture in our political affairs. An extensive territory, with a large population, had been thrown upon our hands, as the fruits of the war. In regard to the disposition of this immense acquisition of territory, the public mind was greatly agitated by conflicting opinions. As, at the time when the constitution was formed, the slavery question was one of great perplexity. Serious apprehensions were indulged that the integrity of the Union was in imminent danger. There were strong and decided feelings, of a large party, that nothing should be conceded to extend, or favor slavery. The slavery portion of the Union was equally decided in favor of concessions to their interests. The slavery question was in fact, the most momentous in the issue. Whatever might be the arrangement, where such conflicting interests and feelings exist, universal satisfaction cannot be expected. Fortunately the country was still favored with the most eminent talents. A Webster, a Clay, and a Calhoun, those brilliant lights, still adorned the Senate. Mr. Webster was, undoubtedly, the master spirit. Every eye, at the North especially, was watching his movements. Planting himself on the broad basis of the whole country, he resolved to attempt such an adjustment, as he deemed the peculiar state of public affairs demanded. Mr. Clay labored assiduously in planning and promoting the Compromise Measure. He felt that his services for his country were drawing near a close. Mr. Calhoun, although it was well known he possessed strong Southern feelings, manifested a conciliatory spirit.

The speeches of those men, breathed the spirit of conciliation. In debating the subject, in all its bearings, Mr. Web-

ster rose equal to himself. He too, felt that his part, in this measure, would be one of the last acts of his public life, and that an amazing weight of responsibility rested upon him. Whatever might be his course, it was hardly to be expected that he would escape party missiles, and party denunciations. They were, in fact, from some quarters, bestowed upon him with an unsparing hand. The provision for returning fugitive slaves has been denounced in strong terms. If such a provision was *indispensable* in the compromise, the trial by jury ought also to be *indispensable*. We are, however to presume the best was done, that could be done, in existing circumstances. With the exception of the fugitive slave provision, experiment has tended to prove the wisdom of the Compromise Measure. The public feeling was settling down to a quiescent state, when it was suddenly aroused again, by an act which we shall hereafter notice. Mr. Fillmore's course was calculated to produce a conservative state of feeling, and to secure respect for his administration. He was not inclined to any rash, or doubtful measures. His Cabinet was composed of Mr. Webster and other very able men. His example shows the necessity of selecting a man for the *second* office, who is equal to filling the *first*. He was censured by many, in not exercising the veto power, in the Compromise Act.

Here we would make a remark in relation to elevating distinguished military men to the office of chief magistrate. Objections have been made to such men on the score of their military character for such a civil trust. The objections probably arise from an apprehension, that the propensity of such men would be to encourage a military spirit, and that this high trust might be in danger of being abused by an ambitious man. Ancient history furnishes many examples of such abuse. Even now, in this enlightened portion of the world, there are large numbers, who are captivated with military achievements. Such achievements are quite a sure passport to civil promotion, as we have been experi-

mentally taught. It must be admitted, that we have not by the trial thus far, realized any of the apprehended evils. The man of correct principles, who has been personally engaged, and who has personally witnessed the horrors of war, is, we believe, quite as much inclined to avoid a repetition of them, as the man who has had no such experience. The administrations of Washington, Jackson, and Taylor, confirms the truth of this remark. It cannot be denied that the military reputation of those men, while incumbents of the executive chair, exerted a controlling influence at home and abroad. The man who can skillfully marshal an army of fifty, or even twenty thousand men, is not an ordinary man.

It is to be hoped the period is distant in this country, when it will be again necessary to put skill of this sort to the test. The father of our country deemed it necessary to be prepared for war, in a time of peace, although no man would do more to avoid war than Washington. He had witnessed and felt the effects of war; he had realized the blessings of peace. He is an illustrious example for all his successors, not only as a consummate commander, but as a consummate statesman, keeping constantly in view the honor, the harmony, and the highest prosperity of his country.

Comparing the present qualifications for office, with those which the public demanded, in the days of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, as before remarked, we are deeply impressed with a lamentable declension. This disregard of qualifications, is not confined to the highest office, but is strikingly developed in those of a subordinate character. Many are not probably fully aware of the adroit management which is practised to secure such results as we witness in the exercise of the elective franchise. How did the present chief Magistrate reach his high position? No disrespect is intended towards the man. He was raised from comparative obscurity, to fill an office for

which he had given very doubtful evidence of fitness. To what is this great public evil of unfitness attributable? The inquiry involves momentous consequences, and admonishes every man to pause, and consider whither such a state of things is tending. Availability has become a weighty matter in selecting candidates for office. The truth is, the public mind can be strangely imposed upon, or has become strangely perverted, even at this enlightened period. Passing over men whose qualifications have been thoroughly tested, if all is fair in the selection of an inexperienced man, the experiment is not warrantable by prudence or sound policy. It is too obvious, to admit of a doubt, that *men*, and not *measures*, are becoming more and more the controlling motives of action, and men too, whose prominent qualifications consist in promoting the interests of a faction, at the expense of the general good. Hence indiscreet measures, indiscreet legislation, indiscreet appointments, and disastrous results. The laws and the government lose that respect which they ought to command. Public and private interests suffer, and a spirit of bitterness prevails. The Act which was passed in 1854, repealing the Missouri Compromise, is one, among other illustrations in point. Can we believe, for a moment, that Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, or Gen. Jackson, all southern men, would have encouraged or sanctioned the violation of that compact? Although in the form of an act of Congress, it was considered little less obligatory than the provision in the Constitution in relation to Slavery. It is well known that this provision was a compromise to affect a union of the States, and to put at rest, discordant views in regard to Slavery. The Missouri Compromise was designed to put at rest the question in regard to the extension of the area of Slavery. There was not the least pretext of public necessity to disturb it. The public mind was generally becoming reconciled to the Compromise of 1850, and was tending to a quiescent state. In the midst of this flattering prospect of general harmony, it is aroused afresh

with the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. The very first movements of this project impressed the public mind with strong disapprobation. It was thought hardly possible, that there was a serious intention to carry it into effect, if practicable. It was considered a rash attempt to violate a solemn obligation, which the nation was bound in justice and honor to hold sacred. Developments showed more and more, that the movers were in earnest, and that nothing would be left untried to accomplish their object.

The arguments in Congress, in opposition to the measure, were powerful and unanswerable. A multitude of remonstrances, containing thousands of names of high respectability, poured into Congress, expressing decided disapprobation to it. It was considered very doubtful, for some time, whether sufficient strength could be mustered to overthrow the Missouri Compromise. After many powerful struggles, the measure was at last carried by a bare majority. It must be understood that it was in the power of the delegation from the non-slave-holding States to arrest it by an overwhelming majority. Notwithstanding arguments and remonstrances, the fatal blow could not be arrested. The event, like the opening of the fabled Pandoros box, has spread its evils over the land. This extraordinary movement may fitly be denominated the crowning act of the spirit of faction. It has occasioned the breaking up of old parties, and involved our political affairs in a state of inextricable confusion. A multitude of new parties have sprung into existence, assuming names unknown to ancient, or modern vocabularies. In this chaotic state of things, it is not easy for the man who wishes to be governed by correct principles, to know how, or where to shape his course. He hears of new conventions, new combinations, and new platforms, but in none of them does he witness harmony of views, or purposes. Discord is the predominant element. At no period, has the question of Slavery been agitated with more bitterness, or exerted a more controlling influence.

Kansas is now the theatre where the struggle between Freedom and Slavery is becoming more and more intense. The prospect is by no means flattering that it will be of short duration. Anarchy reigns in Kansas. The right of free suffrage cannot there be enjoyed. Border interlopers come in, in large numbers, and not only vote, but attempt to control the ballot-box by force. In the frequent altercations and skirmishings which are the consequences of such a state of things, many lives have already been sacrificed.

The effects of destroying the Missouri Compromise are developed, in not a very cheering attitude, in the movements of Congress. This year, 1856, nine weeks were consumed in choosing a speaker. Had the Missouri Compromise remained undisturbed, there is no doubt all these multiplied evils would have been avoided. The settlement of Kansas would have been like that of other portions of our free territory, already settled.

In regard to one of the evils of this measure, let the reader bear in mind, that the long session of Congress in 1854, was wasted, or principally occupied in destroying the Missouri Compromise, and that about six months of the session of 1855 and 1856 have already been consumed, mostly in agitating the Kansas difficulties. Let him calculate, if he can, the draft that has been made our nation for one unwarrantable movement. Our object in sketching these facts, is mainly to exhibit the results of indiscreet and unwarrantable measures. They show incontestably that the public interest, and the public prosperity, demand a radical change in the qualifications of public functionaries. If this state of things continues, a train of disastrous results are inevitable. The political affairs of a nation cannot be discreetly and prosperously managed by factions and unfit men. The truth of this remark is obvious. Why is not the correct principle in regard to qualifications, carried into practice, as in the days of the infancy of our republic? This question involves momentous results as it respects our future

destiny. The past, furnishes a profitable lesson for the future.

The election of rulers, especially of Chief Magistrate, by the people, was considered one of the most important preferences to a republican government. Is there not still virtue sufficient in the nation, to rescue this invaluable privilege, in some degree, at least, from such abuse ?

The author would remark in conclusion, that if this humble work should prove in any degree useful, the reflection will afford him some satisfaction, that his endeavors have not been entirely in vain.





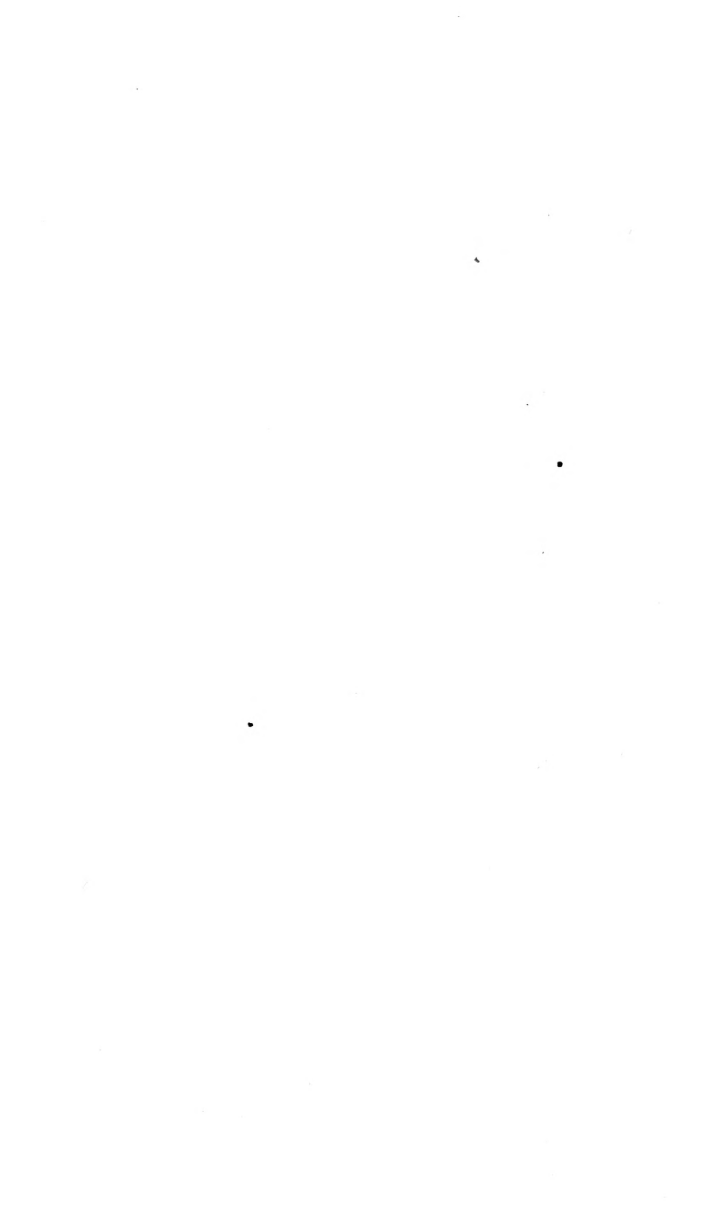














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